DC BATMAN

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER

48 pages ONLY 25¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 236
NOV.
30430

THERE'S MY MURDERER, BATMAN!

AVENGE MY DEATH...

"WAIL OF THE GHOST BRIDE"

PLUS "WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS" A BATMAN AND ROBIN CLASSIC

48 PAGES 25¢ BIGGER AND BETTER DC BATMAN

BOYS! SIGN UP NOW!

The Ford-National Football League

PUNT, PASS & KICK

Competition

Ara Parseghian, Ford's National PP&K Director says: "As coach of Notre Dame I know a winner when I see one—and PP&K is a winner! I'm pleased to be Ford's National Director of PP&K, the biggest and best of all national programs for boys. Here's how it works: boys 8 through 13 compete with others their own age in PP&K. There's no body contact. PP&K is fun and exciting. I urge every boy between 8 and 13 to sign up today!"

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TOUR FABULOUS NEW ORLEANS!

You may win one of many handsome trophies. Think of it. Every participating Ford Dealer is awarding 18 local trophies. Plus, if you're a first place winner, you get a crack at many more trophies. Imagine your parents, as Ford's guests, seeing you compete in full uniform during half time in an NFL game. Or as a National Finalist at the famous Super Bowl Game in New Orleans, Louisiana. And, as a National Finalist, you and your parents will tour fabulous New Orleans and its historic landmarks.

IT'S FREE! IT'S FUN!
IT'S EASY TO ENTER!

Go with your mom, dad, or legal guardian to your participating Ford Dealer and register. There's no **obligation—and everything is absolutely free.** And, PP&K has the full support of the National Football League.

Boys who sign up get a free Tips Book filled with exciting stories, pointers and tips by NFL stars Dave Lewis, John Brodie and Curt Knight on how to Punt, Pass and Kick the way the professionals do!

Hurry! Registration open August 16 through October 1!

Ford

AVENGE MY DEATH, BATMAN-- KILL MY MURDERER!
CAN AN UNHOLY COMMAND FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE COMPEL
The BATMAN
...TO BREAK HIS SOLEMN VOW NEVER TO KILL?
STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
"WAIL OF THE GHOST-BRIDE!"
ART BY: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
S-925
1

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A CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT WINGS MONOTONOUSLY ACROSS SLEEPING HAMLETS BELOW, BRINGING THAT EVER VIGILANT CRIME-CRUSADER, THE BATMAN, CLOSER TO HOME IN GOTHAM CITY...
...A MAN WHOSE MIND, EVEN IN HIS COVER-ROLE OF BRUCE WAYNE, NEVER CEASES TO BE INTRIGUED BY THE UNKNOWN... THE UNSOLVED...
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JUDGE CRATER... THE FLIGHT INTO OBLIVION OF AMELIA EARHART...
...THE HONEYMOON-TRAGEDY OF THE FORMER CORRINE HELLBANE! WHAT WERE THE REAL STORIES...THE UNREVEALED FACTS?
SPECTACULAR UNSOLVED MYSTERIES
CORRINE, THE YOUNG HEIRESS OF GOTHAM'S HELLBANE MANOR... WHO VANISHED IN THE STORMY ATLANTIC ON HER ILL-FATED HONEY-MOON TO EUROPE!
WAS SHE REALLY SWEPT OVERBOARD, AS CLAIMED BY HER DISTRAUGHT BRIDE-GROOM, AXEL MARCH...?
WOMAN OVERBOARD!
OR...WAS CORRINE THROWN TO HER DEATH, SO AXEL COULD GAIN HER VAST FORTUNE... AS OTHERS MALICIOUSLY ACCUSED?
DID HE THEN SELL HER ESTATE AND MOVE AWAY... TO ESCAPE HAUNTING MEMORIES OF THE TRAGEDY?

OVERCOME AT LAST BY FATIGUE, BRUCE DRIFTS OFF... AS IN ANOTHER PART OF THE JUMBO-JET...
THE TRIBUNE
AN ERA COMES TO AN END IN GOTHAM CITY
HELLBANE MANOR

"TRAGIC REMINDER OF THE 1930 HELLBANE CASE TO BE DEMOLISHED FOR A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND, ITS SOCIALITE OWNER MRS. TYLER-TILFORD REVEALED TODAY..."

DID I REALLY BELIEVE IT WOULD STAND FOREVER ...UNTOUCHED? NOT COME BACK TO HAUNT ME...?
I WAS SO YOUNG, THEN...

PLAGUED EVEN IN HALF-SLEEP BY THE HELLBANE ENIGMA, BRUCE'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND TEETERS ON THAT THIN DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN REALITY AND FANTASY, WHEN...
AVENGE MY DEATH
BATMAN

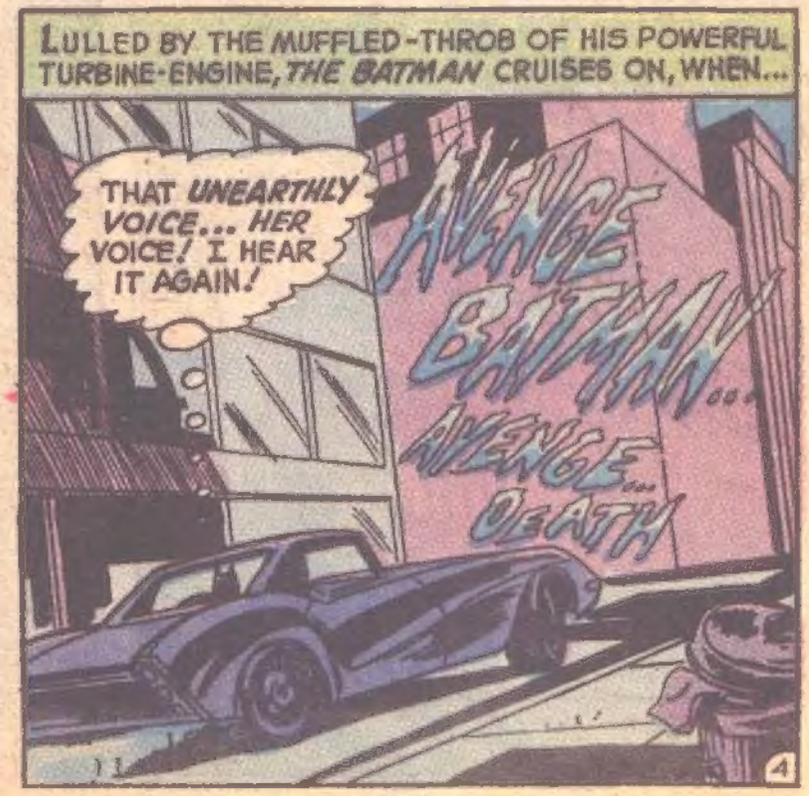
THE EERIE VOICE ECHOING IN HIS BRAIN, BRUCE AWAKES WITH A START!
C-CORRINE... CORRINE HELLBANE-- OUT THERE?!

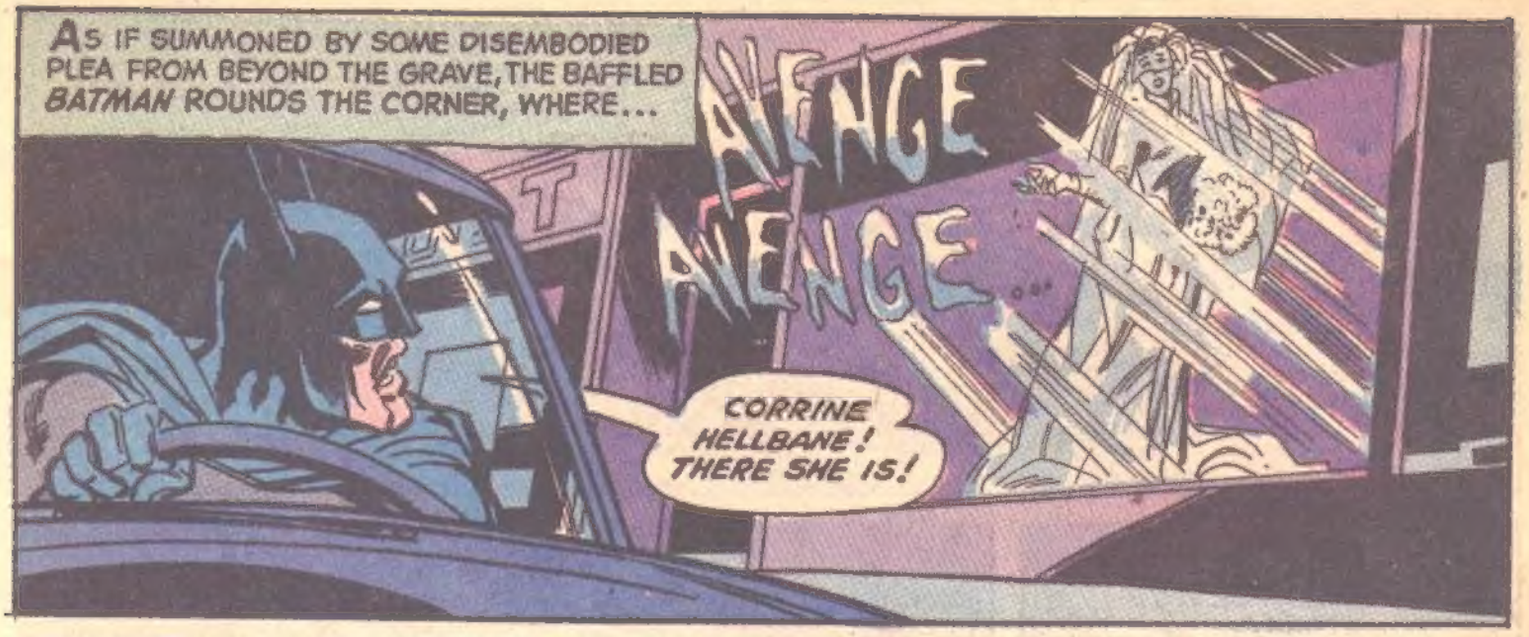
IN THAT SEMI-STATE BETWEEN WAKING AND DREAMING, BRUCE GROPES FOR A RATIONAL EXPLANATION OF THE GHOSTLY IMAGE...
CUT IT, WAYNE! IT CAN ONLY BE A DISTORTED REFLECTION OF THE WOMAN NEXT TO ME--

N-NO--IT ISN'T! NO RESEMBLANCE... NO MATTER HOW DISTORTED!
THEN WHAT... HOW...?
YOUNG MAN--YOU LOOK UPSET! A BAD DREAM PERHAPS...?

MIDNIGHT AT GOTHAM AIRPORT, A STILL-TROUBLED MAN TRIES TO SHAKE THE HAUNTING FACE OF "CORRINE" FROM HIS MIND'S EYE...
I'LL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY HOME, MASTER BRUCE! YOU MUST BE DREADFULLY FATIGUED!..
NO... ALFRED... NOT REALLY! I'LL TAKE THE WHEEL... AND AFTER DROPPING YOU OFF AT HOME...
BATMAN IS GOING ON PATROL--TO CLEAR MY MIND!

THEN-IN THE HOUR PAST MIDNIGHT...
WHY SHOULD THE LONG-DEAD HELLBANE PUZZLE BUG ME? IS IT POSSIBLE...THE FINAL CHAPTER IS YET TO BE WRITTEN...?


LULLED BY THE MUFFLED-THROB OF HIS POWERFUL TURBINE-ENGINE, THE BATMAN CRUISES ON, WHEN...
THAT UNEARTHLY VOICE... HER VOICE! I HEAR IT AGAIN!
AVENGE BATMAN... AVENGE... DEATH


AS IF SUMMONED BY SOME DISEMBODIED PLEA FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE, THE BAFFLED BATMAN ROUNDS THE CORNER, WHERE...
AVENGE AVENGE...
CORRINE HELLBANE! THERE SHE IS!

BOTH TIMES... APPEARING IN WINDOWS! MUST... MUST BE ANOTHER INCREDIBLE REFLECTION!

GOTTA CONVINCE MYSELF IT IS AN ILLUSION... ONLY AN--
BATMAN!
WATCH OUT BEHIND YOU!

WHATTA WAY FOR YOU TO GO, BATMAN-- FREAKED OUT BY A DOLL!

I WAS MESMERIZED... OUT OF THIS WORLD JUST LONG ENOUGH... TO LEAVE MYSELF WIDE OPEN!
5

FLUBBED MY FIRST CRACK AT HIM--
BUT MY SECOND IS RIGHT ON THE BUTTON!
THE "BIG BOYS" WILL PAY PLENTY FOR THIS SCORE!
IMAGINE... GETTING HUNG UP BY A PUNK MUGGER... CATCHING ME OFF GUARD!
HEY... WHA--?!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST... CORRINE...
PHWHUP!

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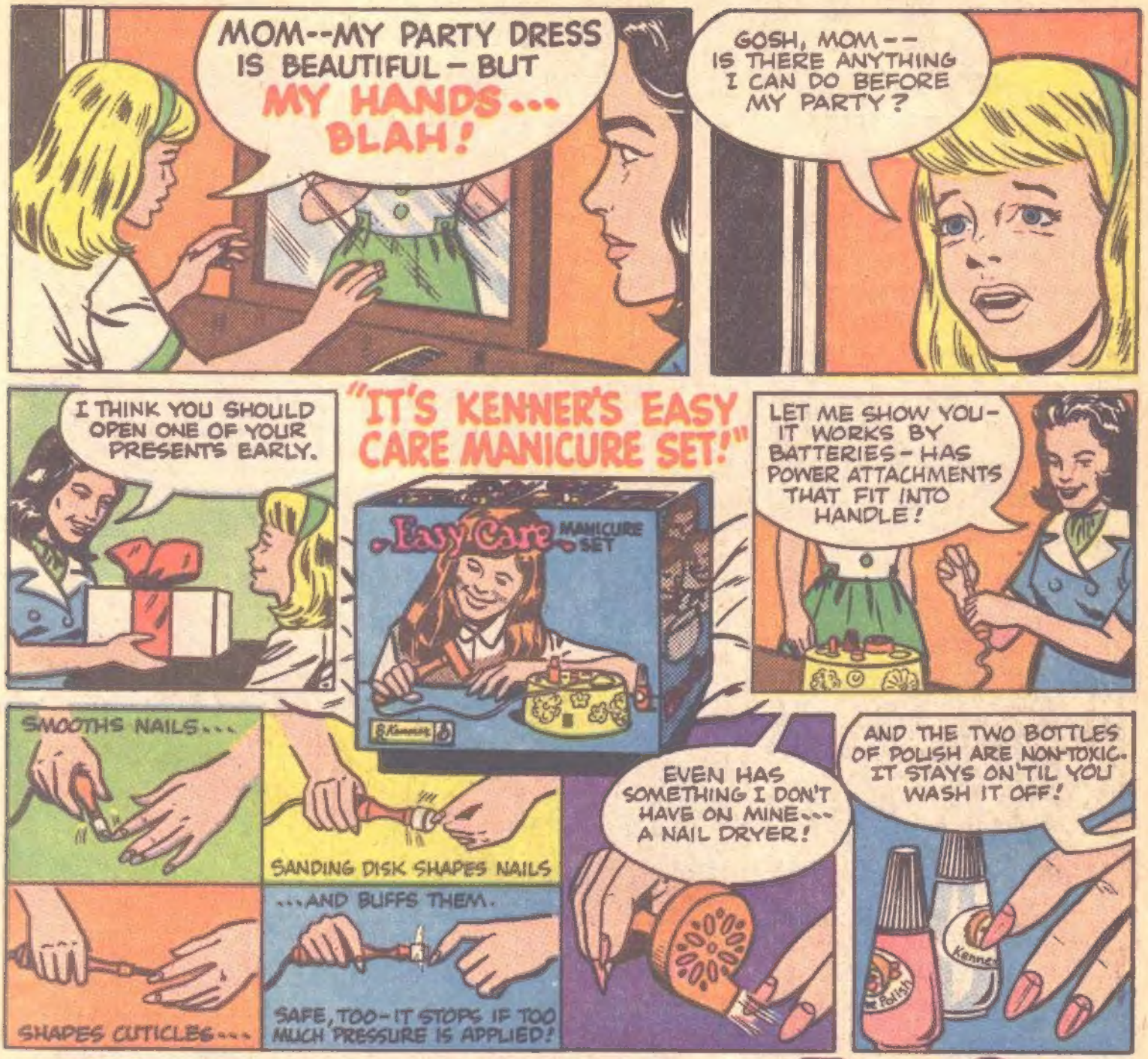

MOM--MY PARTY DRESS IS BEAUTIFUL – BUT MY HANDS... BLAH!
GOSH, MOM -- IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO BEFORE MY PARTY?
I THINK YOU SHOULD OPEN ONE OF YOUR PRESENTS EARLY.
"IT'S KENNER'S EASY CARE MANICURE SET!"
Easy Care MANICURE SET
LET ME SHOW YOU- IT WORKS BY BATTERIES - HAS POWER ATTACHMENTS THAT FIT INTO HANDLE!
SMOOTHS NAILS....
SANDING DISK SHAPES NAILS
...AND BUFFS THEM.
SHAPES CUTICLES....
SAFE, TOO - IT STOPS IF TOO MUCH PRESSURE IS APPLIED!
EVEN HAS SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE ON MINE.... A NAIL DRYER!
AND THE TWO BOTTLES OF POLISH ARE NON-TOXIC. IT STAYS ON 'TIL YOU WASH IT OFF!
OH, MOM, I LOVE IT... AND I'LL NEVER BITE MY NAILS AGAIN!
JUST BEFORE SUSAN'S PARTY...
SEE, SUSAN -- YOUR DRESS IS BEAUTIFUL ... AND SO ARE YOUR NAILS!
THANKS TO YOU, MOM -- AND KENNER'S EASY CARE!

Kenner's Easy Care™

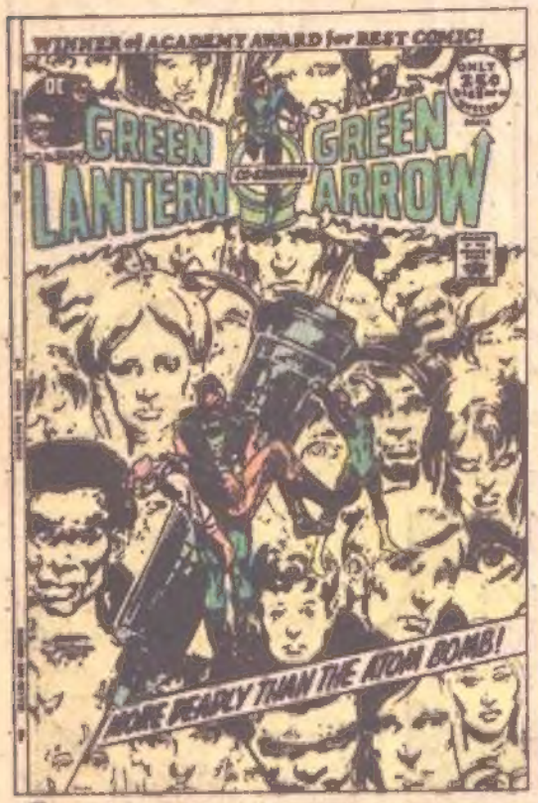
MANICURE SET

COMES COMPLETE WITH ACCESSORY HANDLE AND 5 POWER ATTACHMENTS ... STYLISH CARRYING CASE HAS STORAGE COMPARTMENTS FOR EVERYTHING. ALSO INCLUDES 2 BOTTLES OF NON-TOXIC NAIL POLISH. USES TWO "D" BATTERIES (NOT INCLUDED).

OTHER KENNER SETS FOR "LITTLE MODERN MISS" ARE: EASY CURL QUICK HAIR SETTING KIT – AND EASY CURL WITH LIGHT-UP MIRROR VANITY.

D.C. SWEEPS A.C.B.A. AWARDS

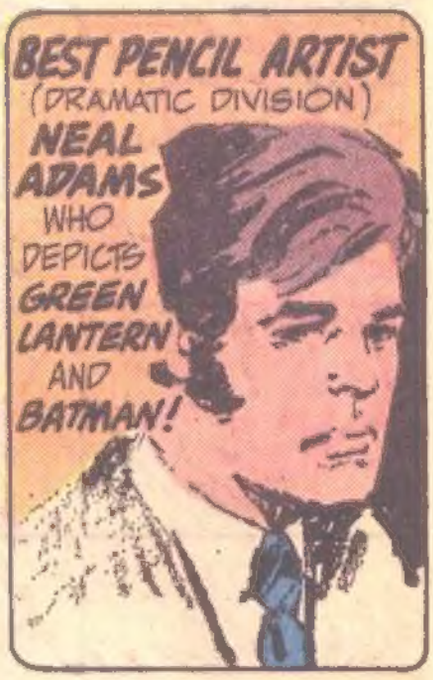
AT THE FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET OF THE *ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS*, MOST OF THE *SHAZAM AWARDS* WENT TO *DC COMICS*. HERE ARE OUR WINNERS:



BEST CONTINUING FEATURE: *GREEN LANTERN-GREEN ARROW*

BEST INDIVIDUAL STORY: "NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!"

BEST WRITER (DRAMATIC DIVISION) *DENNY O'NEIL*, WRITER OF *GREEN LANTERN, BATMAN, SUPERMAN,* AND OTHER FEATURES.

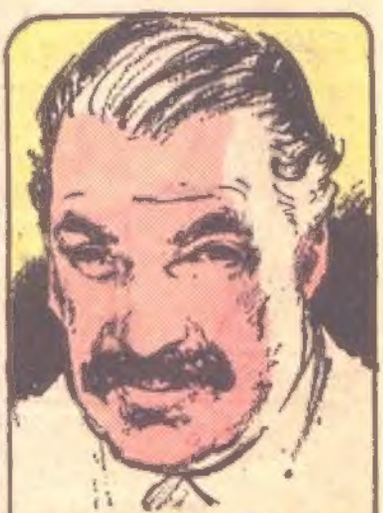


BEST PENCIL ARTIST (DRAMATIC DIVISION) *NEAL ADAMS* WHO DEPICTS *GREEN LANTERN* AND *BATMAN!*

BEST INKER (DRAMATIC DIVISION): *DICK GIORDANO*, INKER OF MANY D.C. FEATURES: SEE HIS WORK ON THE NOVEMBER *GREEN LANTERN—GREEN ARROW!*

BEST PENCIL ARTIST (HUMOR DIVISION): *BOB OKSNER*, PENCILLER OF MANY D.C. HUMOR FEATURES. SEE HIS DRAMATIC ART IN THE CURRENT *ADVENTURE COMICS!*

BEST INKER (HUMOR DIVISION): *HENRY SCARPELLI*, WHOSE INKS HAVE LONG GRACED OUR HUMOR MAGS, SUCH AS *BINKY* AND *DEBBI!*



BEST COLORIST: *JACK ADLER*, HEAD OF *DC's* COLORING DEPT. HE COLORS MANY OF THE STORIES YOU SEE IN OUR COMICS!

A LIFELESS MANNIKIN! --BUT WHAT ELSE DID I EXPECT HER TO BE--
--THE "EARTHLY HOST" OF THE "SPIRIT" OF CORRINE HELLBANE?
I PROBABLY CAUGHT A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF THE MUGGER IN THE WINDOW BEFORE HE STRUCK...
...AND MY IMAGINATION SUPPLIED THE "GHOSTLY" WARNING!
THE NEXT MORNING, IN BRUCE'S OFFICE AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
A WEEK AWAY IS A LONG TIME, MISS TUITE! EXPECT YOU'VE GOT A BIG WORK-LOAD OUT FOR ME...?
YES, SIR! I'VE ARRANGED THE MAIL IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL!
FROM MRS. TYLER-TILFORD... SOCIALITE-LEADER OF THE CIVIC-PROGRESS SET!
LOOKS LIKE A FORMAL INVITE...
"HELP RAZE HELLBANE! A DUSK-TO-DAWN FUN-FETE BENEFIT FOR GOTHAM'S UNDERPRIVILEGED! RELEASE YOUR DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE CAUSE!"
"DRESS: WORKCLOTHES. WE SUPPLY WRECKING-TOOLS... FOR A PRICE! TAX-DEDUCTIBLE, OF COURSE. DATE: THE TENTH OF..."
...THAT'S TONIGHT! WHAT A WILD COINCIDENCE... AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT!
7

MMM...IF I BELIEVED THE "OCCULT"... THE "SUPERNATURAL"...I'D SWEAR THE DEAD MISTRESS OF HELLBANE MANOR WAS TRYING TO GET THROUGH TO ME...
...TO INSURE I'D BE THERE TONIGHT!
AAAGH! WHAT'S COME OVER ME? ANYTHING CAN BE EXPLAINED RATIONALLY... IF YOU FIND THE KEY!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO... UNLOCK THIS SEALED MYSTERY!
AND SO, AS THE LAST FADING VESTIGES OF DAY WREATHE THE ANCIENT MANSION IN INCREASING GLOOM...
DESPITE MY DOUBTS, I'M LETTING MYSELF BE LED HERE... AS SURELY AS IF CORRINE HELLBANE HERSELF HAD SENT THE INVITATION!
LOOKS LIKE ALL OF GOTHAM'S "IN" PEOPLE HAVE TURNED OUT FOR THE AFFAIR!
I PITY THE POOR "GHOST" WHO PLANS HAUNTING IN THE BEDLAM THAT'S GOING TO BREAK LOOSE HERE TONIGHT!

PICK YOUR "WEAPONS", FOLKS! JUST SIGN A CONTRIBUTION-PLEDGE FOR THE PLAYGROUND-FUND -- AND THEY'RE YOURS!
ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HOW THE "SILENT MAJORITY" LIVED, MARTHA!
OH, I THINK IT'S TERRIBLY CHIC BEING A "HARD-HAT" ISN'T IT, MITCH?
EVERYBODY! YOUR ATTENTION, PUL-LEASE!
THE HOSTESS, HERSELF ... MRS. TYLER-TILFORD! SHE'S AN OLD HAND AT THESE FUND-RAISERS...
WE WANT THIS TO BE A FUN-PARTY AND A BANG-UP BENEFIT, BUT...
...WE DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING HURT! SO, WE'VE TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS...
FOR ONE -- IF YOU PLAN ANY GLASS-SMASHING, PUL-LEASE WEAR THESE PROTECTIVE GOGGLES!
SECONDLY...YOU MUST CONFINE YOUR ACTIVITIES TO THE LOWER FLOORS...
...EVERYTHING ABOVE IS IN SAD DISREPAIR! IN FACT, DOWNRIGHT HAZARDOUS!
TABOO! VERBOTEN! NO! NO!

SUDDENLY, A COMMOTION AT THE ENTRANCE...
WHAT IS IT, BOYNTON?
THESE MEN, MADAM--THEY POSSESS NO INVITATIONS!
I WOULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THE NEWS-MEDIA WOULD REQUIRE ANY!
YOU'RE FROM-- TELEVISION? OH, MY--WHAT A DREADFUL OVERSIGHT! YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED...
YOU CAN HARDLY BE FAULTED, MRS. TYLER-TILFORD--WE'RE FROM A WEST COAST NETWORK! THIS CASE... ER...AFFAIR HAS AROUSED NATIONAL INTEREST!
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--DO YOU, AGATHA?
ABRUPTLY...
IT'S TIME SOMEONE BROKE THE ICE!
KRASH
AND THE "ICE" IS BROKEN... WITH A VENGEANCE! PROPER MANNERS GO BY THE BOARD... AS ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE IN "HELLBANE"!
THIS MADHOUSE IS NO PLACE FOR ME!
SMASH
10

SWEPT UP IN THE MAD SWIRL, BRUCE ELBOWS HIS WAY THROUGH THE HOWLING MOB, AND...
CORRINE--IF YOUR "SPIRIT" ROAMS THIS HOUSE...YOU'LL HAVE NO PEACE TONIGHT!
HAW HAW
HUH--? SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN SIGNS...
...HAS GONE UP THOSE FORBIDDEN STAIRS!
TABOO! VERBOTEN! NO! NO!
...AND THAT "SOMEONE" IS APT TO GET HURT!
=UHH= A ROTTED STAIR...!
AND AS BRUCE STRUGGLES TO FREE HIS LEG...
WHRANG
OWWW!
AFTER WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY OF BLACKNESS...
W-WHAT HIT ME...?
DIDN'T HEAR A THING... BEFORE BLACKOUT! THAT BLASTED RACKET GOING ON MUST'VE DROWNED OUT THE SOUND OF MY ATTACKER...
FOOTPRINTS GONE...?!
MUST'VE CARRIED ME DOWN HERE... ARRANGED A COVER-UP SO "INNOCENT GUEST" BRUCE WAYNE WOULD THINK IT WAS AN ACCIDENT ...OR SOMETHING!
11

OF THE BATMAN...
WHOEVER IT WAS, DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS REALLY DEALING WITH!
THIS TIME... I AVOID THE STAIRS!
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE BEING RAZED... HAS BROUGHT SOMEONE HERE ON A SPECIAL MISSION...
WHOEVER HE IS... WHOEVER THEY ARE... WON'T CATCH THE BATMAN OFF-GUARD... AGAIN!
THOUGHT SO! MORE THAN ONE INTRUDER...!
G-GUH... THE--BATMAN?! HOW'D HE KNOW WE WERE...?
THEY WERE CUTIES--BACKING UP THE STAIRS, BRUSHING AWAY THEIR FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST...
...BUT THEY DIDN'T THINK OF ERASING THEM UP HERE!
12

WHERE'S THE THIRD MEMBER OF YOUR PHONY TV CREW?
NEVER MIND ANSWERING--I HEAR WHERE HE'S AT!
BOSS! BOSS! WATCH OUT! THE BATMAN!
THE BATMAN, HEY? I HIRED YOU TWO FOR ONE PURPOSE --TO KEEP SNOOPERS OUT OF HERE!
--INCLUDING YOURSELVES!
WHA-AM!
BOSS...? OTHERWISE KNOWN AS... AXEL MARCH...!
YES, DAMN' YOU!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO...

YOU BET I WILL, MARCH--TO ARREST YOU...
...FOR THE MURDER OF CORRINE HELLBANE!
IF SHE HAD DIED AT SEA--YOU'D HAVE NO REASON TO COME BACK HERE!
--UNLESS IT WAS TO REMOVE--BEFORE THE WRECKERS FOUND IT...
...THE DAMNING EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU!
EVIDENCE THAT WOULD PROVE CONCLUSIVELY--YOUR BRIDE NEVER LEFT HELLBANE MANOR!
THAT IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF POOR CORRINE HELLBANE MARCH--
YES--YES! ALL I WANTED OF HER--WAS HER FORTUNE!
AND I GOT IT! EVERY LOUSY DIME!
14

NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY BATMAN CAN RESIST THE MURDEROUS IMPACT OF MARCH'S MANIACAL ONSLAUGHT--AND BOTH CRASH DOWN ONTO ROTTEN FLOORING!...
BELOW...
EEEEEEEE! EVERYBODY--LOOK OUT!
KRA-A-ASH!
I MUST SEE WHO...
GAH-H!
UPSTAIRS, TENSING HIS POWERFUL NECK MUSCLES AGAINST AN IRON DEATH-GRIP, THE BATMAN FREES HIS LEG--AND...
THAT FINISHES YOU, AXEL MARCH!
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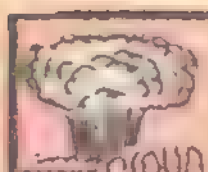


SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational swirling effect.

No. 571 20c

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days

Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Win the respect of your friends—the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one. Made of heavy rubber.

No. 7001 only $1.00

SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

No. 878 Only 50c

PHONY CAST

Imitation white plaster arm cast complete with arm sling. Looks like the real thing! Fits teenagers or adults. A 4 $1.50

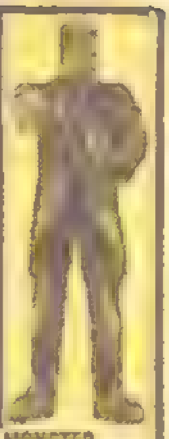
XRAY SPECS

AN HILARIOUS OPTICAL ILLUSION

ONLY $1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. With Xray Specs you seem to be able to look through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes?

No. F37 $1.00



SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair this is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex to fit all heads, nearly changes your appearance.

No. A35 $1.00

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10. A 35 1.25

HORROR FANGS

These plastic teeth (?) fit over your own teeth and, needless to say, they'll completely change your appearance—for the worse. We think they're too much, but why not let your friends be the judges?

Item No. 836 25c

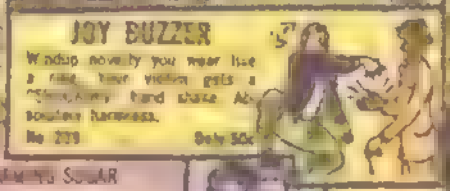
7 FOOT MONSTER

Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the man-made monster. Giant 7 foot tall, his eyes glow eerily in authentic color on durable polyethelene as scary as your wildest nightmare.

No. 865 $1.00

MONSTER SIZE SKELETON

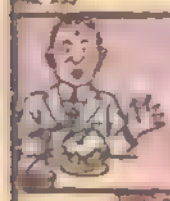
No. F090 $1.00



JOY BUZZER

Wacko novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "shocking" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

No. 229 Only 50c



FORMULA SUGAR

Looks just like real sugar, but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquid, they explode and form crystals of many colors. Seems as though it never stops.

No. 848

AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS

Learn eleven strong man stunts which you can easily perform to astonish your audience. Book includes No Man muscle building course—A real buy.

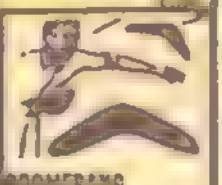
Item 5400 1.25

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.

No. 788 $1.00

Rolls Film $1.00



BOOMERANG

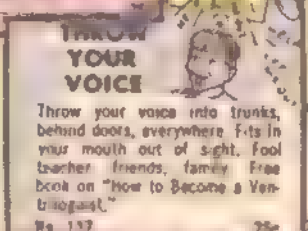
Something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it returns to you and bingo! you're set to "fire" again. Great fun and skill.

No. 141 $1.00

MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.

No. 183 $1.00



THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

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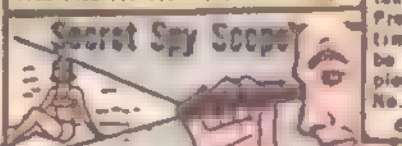

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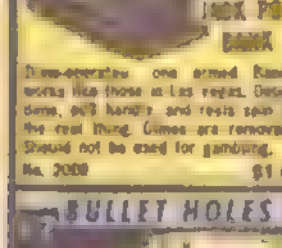

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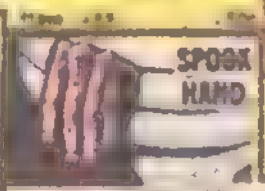

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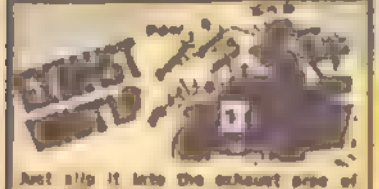
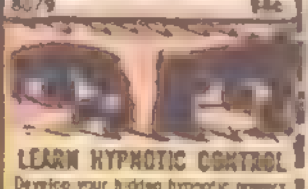


Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car . . . then watch him when he starts the engine! The fumes [illegible] will make him think the motor is about to blow up or fall apart . . . and [illegible] with laughter.



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AXEL--AXEL MARCH?
I-I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE--
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OH, AXEL... AXEL...!
MARCH--YOU WEREN'T ALONE IN THE MURDER-PLOT AGAINST CORRINE HELLBANE!
HOW- HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE... "SOMEONE" POSING AS YOUR NEWLY-WED "BRIDE" HAD TO BE SEEN BOARDING THAT HONEYMOON SHIP! PROBABLY DISGUISED IN A BRIDAL-VEIL...
... AND THAT PHONY "BRIDE" WAS YOU, AGATHA!
ODDS ARE YOU BOOKED SEPARATE PASSAGE-- SO YOU COULD RETURN ALONE TO GOTHAM AFTER CORRINE'S "ACCIDENT" AT SEA!
16

SOB! Y-YES...IT WAS I! I LOVED AXEL SO MUCH... N-NEVER DREAMED HE'D ABANDON ME SOON AFTER...
DID YOU THINK I'D MARRY AN IDIOT LIKE YOU?
YOU DID ALL RIGHT FOR YOURSELF LATER, AGATHA--LANDING THE WEALTHY MAN I SOLD HELLBANE MANOR TO— HENRY TYLER-TILFORD!
BUT WHY IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID YOU ARRANGE FOR THIS "TOMB" TO BE RAZED? DIDN'T YOU REALIZE...
YOU NEVER TRUSTED ME, AXEL! YOU FORGET--YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHERE YOU'D BURIED HER!
SO WHO IS THE "IDIOT" NOW?
A WRECKER'S BALL WROTE THE FINAL ENDING TO THE TRAGIC TALE OF HELLBANE MANOR... EVEN AS I HAD WRITTEN THE FINAL CHAPTER TO THE WRECKAGE OF THREE LIVES, BRINGING PEACE AT LAST TO CORRINE'S TROUBLED "SPIRIT"!
A "SPIRIT" THAT HAD RISEN FROM THE PAGES OF AN UNSOLVED CASE-BOOK... CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE!
THE WAIL OF A GHOST-BRIDE THAT I EVOKED IN MY OWN MIND... BY MY SENSE OF INJUSTICE...
SPECTACULAR UNSOLVED MYSTERIES
...GOADING ME ON TO SOLVE THE UNSOLVABLE!
HOWEVER--IF SOME OF YOU PREFER A MORE SUPERNATURAL EXPLANATION...
THEN BE MY... GHOST-GUEST!
END

ROBIN

WRITER: MIKE FRIEDRICH

PENCILS: IRV NOVICK
INKS: DICK GIORDANO

THE NIGHT WAS CALM NEAR MIDTOWN UNIVERSITY, UNTIL SHOTS IRRATIONALLY RANG OUT AND A POLICEMAN FELL WOUNDED...
BLAM
BLAM
MOVED BY HUMAN COMPASSION AND HIS STRONG DEDICATION TO JUSTICE, ROBIN TRACKED DOWN THE ATTACKER AND IDENTIFIED HIM AS PAT HEALEY--NEW RESIDENT OF A RURAL COMMUNE IN OUTER GOTHAM...

WE'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE! WHALON'S SET A BRUSH-FIRE!
IN THIS TINDERBOX-DRY WEATHER, IT'LL BE A WILDFIRE IN NO TIME!
JONATHAN, WE'VE GOT TO ORGANIZE THE COMMUNE TO SAVE IT!
TERRI, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR MORE THAN WE BARGAINED FOR WHEN WE CAME HERE!
NANCI--SNAP OUT OF IT! THE COMMUNE NEEDS YOU--IN A BATTLE FOR ITS LIFE!
B-BUT I THOUGHT.. PAT WAS SO KIND.. LOVING...
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE--
--GRAB ANY CONTAINER YOU CAN FIND--ANY-THING THAT'LL HOLD WATER!
WE'VE GOT TO FORM A BUCKET BRIGADE!
WITNESS, ROBIN--THE TEEN WONDER--FINDING HIMSELF TOTALLY INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY HE HAS KNOWN BUT SHORTLY...
JOINING IN THE PRIMAL STRUGGLE OF LIFE-AND-DEATH...
RE-DISCOVERING AT EVERY MOMENT THE NECESSITY TO GIVE HIS ALL...

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WE FINALLY REACHED THE GOVERNOR! THE PROFESSIONALS ARE HERE!
AND SO A GREAT VICTORY WAS WON FOR THE BROTHERS-IN-ARMS OF THE RAIN OF FIRE AND UTTER DESTRUCTION BY CHOKING EMBERS...
BUT THERE STILL REMAINS ANOTHER TASK FOR OUR EXHAUSTED TEEN WONDER...
PAT WHALON-- WE LOST HIM IN THE STRUGGLE--!
THAT COULD BE THE YOUNG 'UN THAT HOT-WIRED MY OLD PICK-UP AND RAN OFF WITH IT A SHORT TIME BACK!
MUST'VE BEEN HEADING FOR THE MAIN HIGHWAY!
THIS IS GONNA CALL FOR THE BIKE! GOOD THING I BROUGHT IT ALONG!
...'CAUSE THIS BABY CAN TAKE TO THE TRAILS-- AND SAVE TIME AND DISTANCE!
5

IT'S SPREADING INTO THE FOREST-- IT'LL SOON BE OUT OF CONTROL!
ROBIN--FIND NANCI! SHE'S IN TROUBLE! I...KNOW!
RIGHT!
I DON'T EVEN QUESTION TERRI'S "KNOWING" ANYMORE--
IT'S GETTING SO I BELIEVE MORE AND MORE THAT SHE REALLY HAS PSYCHIC POWERS--!
THAT TREE--! IT'S BURNED THROUGH!
TERRY'S STRANGE POWER REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW--IN THE TEEN TITANS...!
CRACK
ON THAT ENIGMATIC THOUGHT, ROBIN RETURNS QUICKLY TO THE COMMUNE'S CHOSEN LEADER...
JONATHAN--I'D BETTER GO FOR HELP! I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO MIX WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
BUT THIS FIRE THREATENS EVERYONE!
OKAY, ROBIN... IF YOU SAY SO!
I LOST A LOTTA TIME RUNNING TO MY MICRO-BUS! THERE AREN'T ANY ROADS DOWN TO THE COMMUNE!
R-1

REACHING NEARBY FARMS AND A SMALL TOWN...
AIN'T HAD MUCH BUSINESS WITH 'EM--BUT FOLKS IS FOLKS...EVEN IF THEY DO HAVE LONG HAIR!
CAN'T SEE HELPING THEM ALMOST-SAVAGES, BUT I RECKON A FIRE IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO LAY THAT ASIDE FOR A SPELL!
HELP THOSE FILTHY, DISGUSTING HIPPIES? THEY CAN BURN IN HELL FOR ALL I CARE!
BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, MARTHA, THERE'S A FIRE UP THERE THAT'LL AFFECT US IF WE DON'T HELP THEM!
ONCE AGAIN THE BATTLE IS JOINED!
14

SHORTLY...
THAT'S WHALON BELOW--!
THANK GOODNESS FOR SLOW ENGINES, OLD-TIME TIRES, AND DART-TIPPED BATARANGS!
OTHERWISE, I'D HAVE TO START THIS WHOLE THING ALL OVER!
POW
ROBIN--YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST!
COME THE REVOLUTION--YOU'LL BE DONE AWAY WITH!
COME THE REVOLUTION, THE VIOLENT ONES, LIKE YOU, WILL BE OUT IN THE COLD--
--WHILE THE PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE CARRY IT ON!
FOR NOW, THOUGH, WHALON-- I'M JUST GONNA WAIL ON!
6

LATER, WITH PAT WHALON IN THE STATE AUTHORITIES' HANDS...
MISTER, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! AFTER ALL, WE'RE NEIGHBORS! RIGHT?
WE STOPPED THE FIRE--BUT NOT BEFORE IT DESTROYED OUR CROPS!
WE OWE YOU A DEBT FOR CONTAININ' THE BLAZE SO LONG!
WITHOUT YOU FOLKS BEIN' SO WELL ORGANIZED, WE'D ALL HAVE BEEN IN A PECK O' TROUBLE!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LAST THE WINTER OUT--
WHY...WHY...WE THANK YOU--ALL OF US! THIS IS QUITE A CHANGE!
WELL, I GUESS WE ALL CAN STILL GROW A MITE!
MEANWHILE, EXIT FROM THE COMMUNE-- ROBIN AND NANCI BEEKER...
ROBIN, I'VE DECIDED TO RETURN WITH YOU... TO VISIT MY PARENTS...
BUT I HAVE ANOTHER FAMILY AS WELL-- AND HERE IS MY HOME! I WILL COME BACK SOON!
YOU'VE SHAKEN A LOT OF MY BELIEFS, ROBIN!
NO MORE THAN THE COMMUNE SHOOK MINE!
NANCI--I'LL NEVER FORGET THE PLACE! I, TOO, WILL RETURN SOME DAY... FOR A VISIT!
WHAT BOTHERS ME AFTER ALL THIS--IS THAT TERRI DISAPPEARED!
SHE'D SAID SHE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE! I WONDER--DID SHE FIND HIM?
R
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT ON THAT ANSWER FOR A FUTURE STORY! TILL THEN... PEACE!

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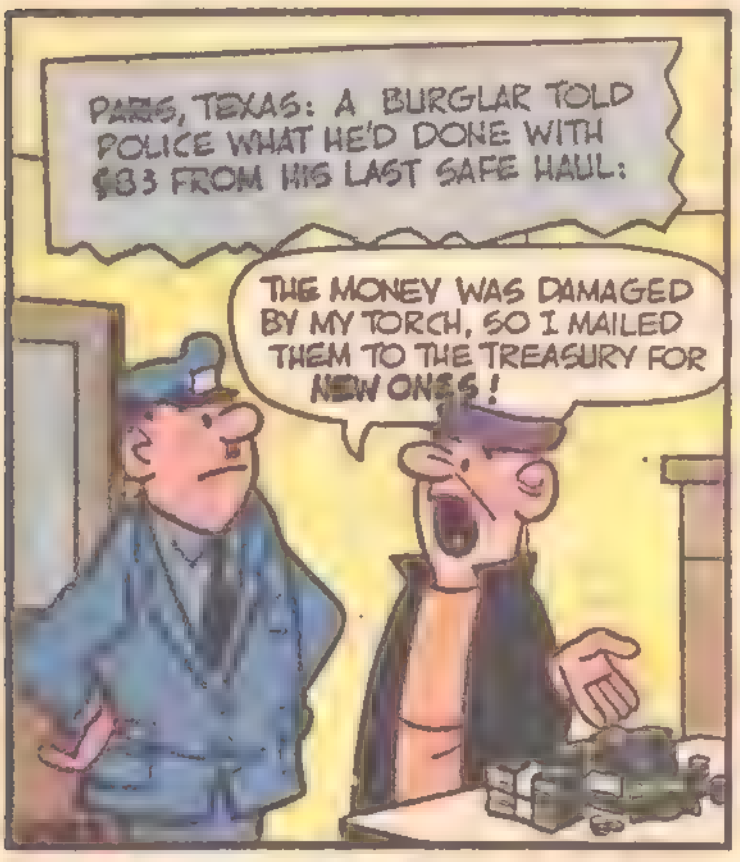
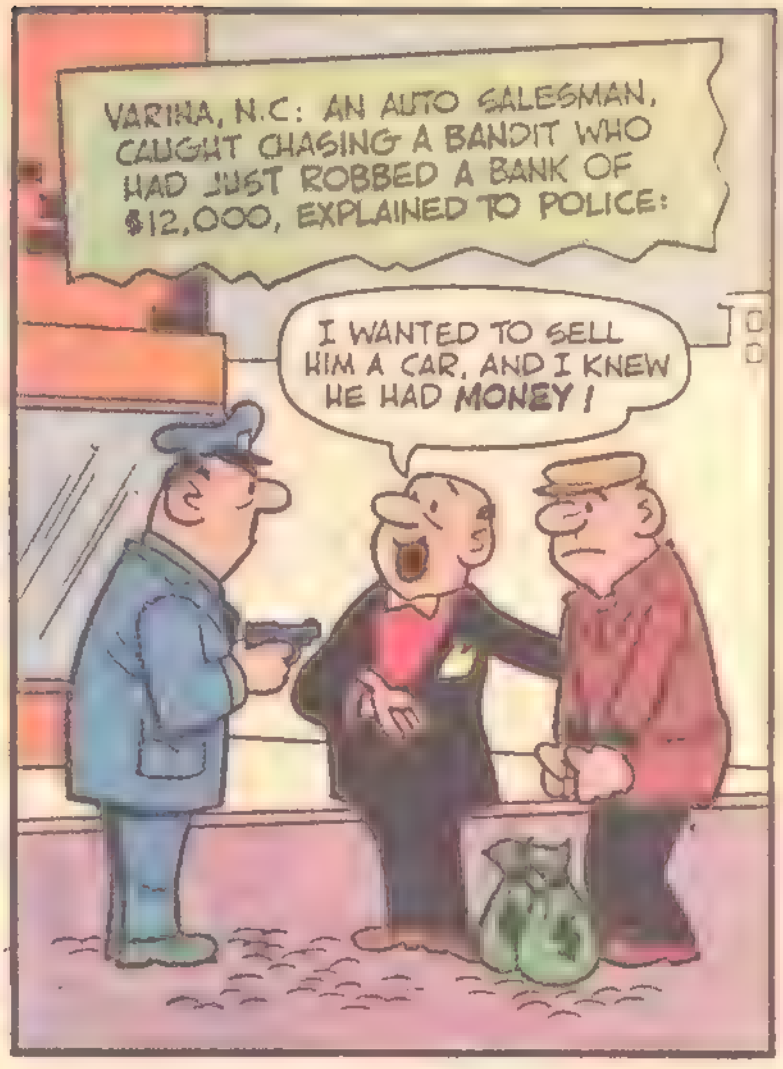

PARIS, TEXAS: A BURGLAR TOLD POLICE WHAT HE'D DONE WITH $83 FROM HIS LAST SAFE HAUL:
THE MONEY WAS DAMAGED BY MY TORCH, SO I MAILED THEM TO THE TREASURY FOR NEW ONES!


VARINA, N.C: AN AUTO SALESMAN, CAUGHT CHASING A BANDIT WHO HAD JUST ROBBED A BANK OF $12,000, EXPLAINED TO POLICE:
I WANTED TO SELL HIM A CAR, AND I KNEW HE HAD MONEY!

ELYRIA, OHIO: A MAN CHARGED WITH AUTO THEFT EXPLAINED WHY HE STOLE THE CAR:
I NEEDED IT TO REPORT TO TENNESSEE AUTHORITIES. I'M OUT ON PAROLE FOR STEALING AN AUTO!

NEW YORK, N.Y: BOOKED ON CHARGES OF BURGLARY AND POSSESSING 5,000 HOTEL AND AUTO KEYS, A MAN TOLD POLICE:
IT'S MY HOBBY! I'M A KEY COLLECTOR!

LETTERS to the BATMAN

ar Editor:

n these days when every story in comix seems to empt to be "relevant," it isn't every day I can en- a nice, **irrelevant** story like "Daughter of the De- ," in **Batman** #232. I loved the plot—nice, com- x, entertaining plots are Denny O'Neil's special- Plenty of action, the introduction of two fasci- ng new characters, and the **best** telling of **Bat- n's** origin I've ever seen, made this one of the t issues yet. Neal Adams' art, too, was of a quali- I haven't seen since his days on **Deadman.** Some ders will write paragraphs of praise for his cap- e of **Batman's** Golden Age faces on page 6; I'll ply say I liked it.

As to the lettercol, I add my vote for a new cos- me for **Robin.** And how ironic (to coin a he) — two correspondents caught Mike Fried- n's mention of a competitor's character in #229's bin story—but apparently no one noticed Irv ick's portrayal of DC's own **Lois Lane** in the very panel!

—RICHARD H. MORRISSEY, Framingham, Mass.

ded among that "no one" who failed to spot *Lois Lane* takeoff was included ye embarrassed or! —*JS*)

* * * * *

r Editor:

I have a favorite kind of plot, it's the kind that O'Neil used in "Daughter of the Demon" in an #232, where the main character runs gh all sorts of fabulous doom-traps and then es that he is not going to be harmed! My first act, as nearly as I can remember, with that structure was that fabulous television series, **The Prisoner.** The plot shows up occasionally in science-fiction stories, with various ramifications and/or twists. It's a great plot.

And here it is in **Batman!** Gee whiz! And not badly done, either! Not only is the fun of watching the hero turn reality inside-out preserved, but fairness to the reader (in the traditional comix-story sense of the phrase) was maintained. You gave the readers all the clues you gave **Batman.** The reader sees, quite as well as **Batman** does, that excuses are being invented to get him in the right places at the right times, and that the people who've invented this imaginary world for **Batman** to run around in are not quite keeping it consistent with itself. **Batman** lays a trap for the villains that we don't know about till they fall for it, but this is fine; he's entitled to find a guarantee on the validity of his judgment.

Another reason I was really pleased with the way the story turned out was that I spotted the big clue—that **Batman** was allowed to step **first** into the room with the leopard—and was prepared to be quite disgusted unless it was explained away quite well in the story. I've read stories where I find **A Clue,** only to find at the end of the story that the hero never noticed it, the villain never noticed it, the writer never noticed it, and as a matter of fact, it makes the story impossible for anyone who **did** notice it. As I said before, if that had been the case with this story, I was going to be quite disgusted.

Nice cover, too. It had nothing to do with the story, of course, but who cares? When you've got a story as nice as this one, you don't quibble. (Or, as a professor of mine once put it, "Well, yes, but then—what is reality?")

—STEVEN CARLBERG, Sarasota, Fla.

(Well, *reality* could be the next, Sterling-living character who whacks away at a "slambang" story (overwhelming readers consensus) with a *slam* and a *bang.* —*JS*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

No doubt Neal Adams will be hailed throughout the land for his excellent work on **Batman** #232. Some will dub it a breakthrough in comix art; some will define it superb; some will call it the bee's knees and be done with it. Do I sound callous? Maybe so. It's not that I don't drool over Mr. Adams' work. It just that the guy has never been criticized by **any** fan, to my knowledge. And I actually didn't see that the art in "Daughter of the Demon" was that outstanding. But that's water under the bridge.

The real reason for my letter was to compliment the tale's author, Denny O'Neil. To compliment him for what had to have been the most insane, ridiculous, most unworthwhile plot of the year. True, it did have its moments of charm, such as the synopsis to both **Batman's** and **Robin's** origins, neither of which has been used lately, and such as that totally unprepared for blockbuster of an ending. But on the whole, there was little backbone to this **odd**yssey. Some months ago, readers were promised an end to the **Batcave, Batmobile, Wayne Manor,** and the campest figure of them all—**Robin, the Boy Wonder.** No, I can't blame Mr. O'Neil for shoving **all** this excess junk into the story; at least he didn't include the **Batmobile.**

Then, as the action starts (for the third time, that is), **Batman** attempts to catch the sniper who shoots at him as he climbs Mount Nanda Devi. So what

does he do? First, he spends three panels thinking the situation over. I realize that these thoughts are ofttimes essential in informing the reader as to just what is happening, but it begins to get a little absurd, as **Batman's** thoughts expand into narrative phrases with a dozen adjectives in each sentence. How does he ever manage to salvage any time for action?

Oh, yes—and then (as I mentioned between parentheses elsewhere) the action begins. And comes to a screaming halt. And begins again. And stops again. This goes on and on with **Batman** fighting peasants in the streets of Calcutta, stopping to spout some cryptic philosophic garble, fighting a leopard, stopping for more profound sentences, climbing a mountain and getting shot at . . . and on . . . and on . . . until I just gave up trying to find the climax.

Unless you could call the **ending** the climax. **Batman** finding out he's been chosen as Talia's fiance . . . but if this was the peak of the story . . . **Whew!** And I thought **Sugar and Spike** was hard to understand!

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

It is comforting to know that the human spirit shows to its best advantage in times of crisis, that people can and do respond to challenge with vigor and courage. With the trouble which the super-hero comix are in, they have responded with a new artistry and creativity, a Renaissance born of pressure. The new **Batman** is a fine example of this.

Batman #232 (June, 1971) was probably the best issue of the month, in your or your competitor's line. O'Neil and Adams, with Giordano's inking, fuse into a single unity, a work of art without seams. So it is difficult to know exactly where credit goes for each touch in "Daughter of the Demon". It was a good, tight script, combining a number of convincing episodes, asides, and natural developments into a coherent whole. Like most of O'Neil's work, it proves to be more complicated than it seemed. That, sir, is skill.

The manner in which Ghul discovered Wayne's identity probably was covered during the '50's, in one of those ten-page jobs that developed nothing; so it fit well and was in a sense original for a **Batman story.** The detective side of our hero came off very well, with the business of Ubu's inconsistent care of Ghul. This is a real, fair, mystery-novel type-clue, and not some obscure pseudo-scientific or professional trivia which the reader had no chance to observe. The leopard attack on page 10 was convincing and not overdone. Not only was **Batman's** method the real one used by survival experts against mad dogs and such, but you spared us those curt thought balloons, "Got to try hard . . . break his neck!" The use of captions instead was most effective.

Neal Adams returned even more to those precious first issues of **The Batman** by skipping the blue highlights on our hero's cowl, leaving it a solid, ominous black. A fine touch: those painted eyebrows and even prescribed lines for the nose were getting to me. All that remains is to drop the utility belt and yellow circle around the chest emblem, and **The Batman** will be a total, stark figure of awe. He's almost there now, and with the team of O'Neil/Adams, he'll make it.

One question: was the face on page 12 really that of Deadman?

—EDWARD FELIPE, Ruby, N.Y.

(Before we fact-the-face, let's look in on some more about-faces. —*JS*)

* * * * *

. . . And about that face on the mountain on page 12. **Deadman? (MIKE CHERKAS, Oshawa, Ont., Can.)**

Whose idea was it to sketch the "man in the mountain"? It is rather obvious yet there is no mention of it. **(GREG COBEN, Monmouth Beach, N.J.)**

Is that a profile of **Abraham Lincoln** in the mountain on page 12? **(PAUL HUSTING, Madison, Wis.)**

And isn't that **Deadman** hidden in the cliff on page 12? **(BOB ROZAKIS, Elmont, N.Y.)**

Page 12: What is **Richard Nixon** doing in the Himalayas? **(J. W. HANLEY, Saginaw, Mich.)**

Enjoyable was the sight of **Deadman** screaming from page 12's cliff, reminding this Batmaniac of our hero's last mountain expedition in **Brave & Bold #86. (STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.)**

(On no less an authority than Neal Adams, the facial treatment was that of **Deadman**—Neal's personal battle to keep **Deadman** . . . alive. For another **Deadman**-revival, check out the current (November) **Justice League of America!** —*JS*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

You've just introduced a new, sweet but possibly deadly love interest into **The Batman's** life. Now I'm intrigued. What is Talia's nationality? My guess is that she comes from a Himalayan Mountain kingdom such as Nepal, Bhutan, or Sikkim—in which area most of the recent action took place. Certainly Talia was not raised as an Arab, despite her father's working name of Ra's al Ghul. Arabs nowadays come almost entirely Moslem, Christian, or Jewish, and do not seem to tolerate "idolators" very well. And Talia made reference to the gods (in the plural) in the May, 1971 **Detective Comics.** Most likely she's a Buddhist, possibly a Hindu. Her father could be from Syria; Iraq, Iran or Afghanistan, or from a Soviet land directly north of one of those nations.

My guess is that he's from the Soviet, though not a Communist or an active Soviet citizen; that would make him secretive about his origins. Talia and her mother would come from the Himalayas, most likely Sikkim (we recall that the former Hope Cooke married the king of Sikkim and this could have inspired the creation of Talia).

Left in the background is the nature of the **Brotherhood of the Demon.** If it's a criminal organization, **The Batman** will have to shun it and Talia. If it's a military-type of organization (as seems likely, operating in the shadow of Communist-controlled Tibet), then a different sort of rules apply. Complicating things is this: that Talia knows **The Batman's** secret identity (we can assume her father would tell her!) She will not hesitate to force herself on Bruce Wayne, the more so since she knows she saved his life after he saved hers!

—MICHAEL N. TIERSTEIN, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Till we get further background-material on Talia and her father, let's just cryptically consider her a *Woman of the World*, and him a *Man of the Ages!* —*JS*)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

If **Playboy** ever runs out of centerfold models, it should hire Neal Adams. His rendition of Talia (page 22, panel 2) was sheer beauty! Never before have I seen such a fantastically beautiful girl as Neal's Talia—not in comix; not in real life (well, Raquel Welch, **maybe**)!

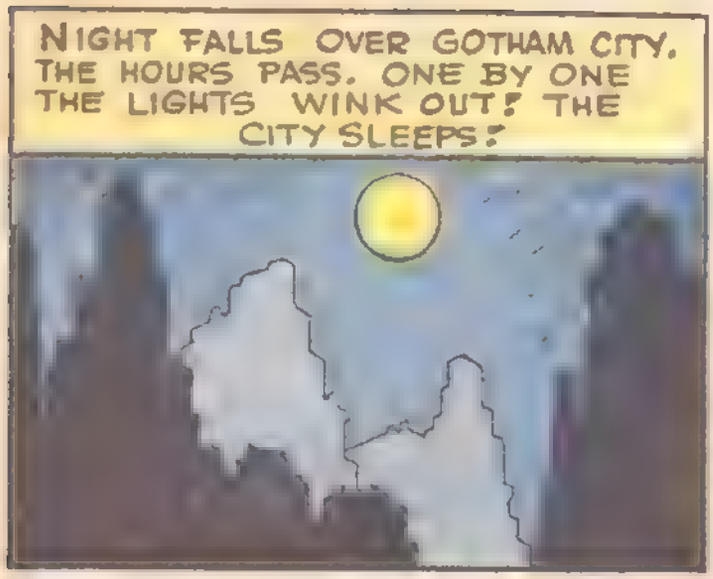
—JOE MAXSWEEN, Syracuse, N.Y.

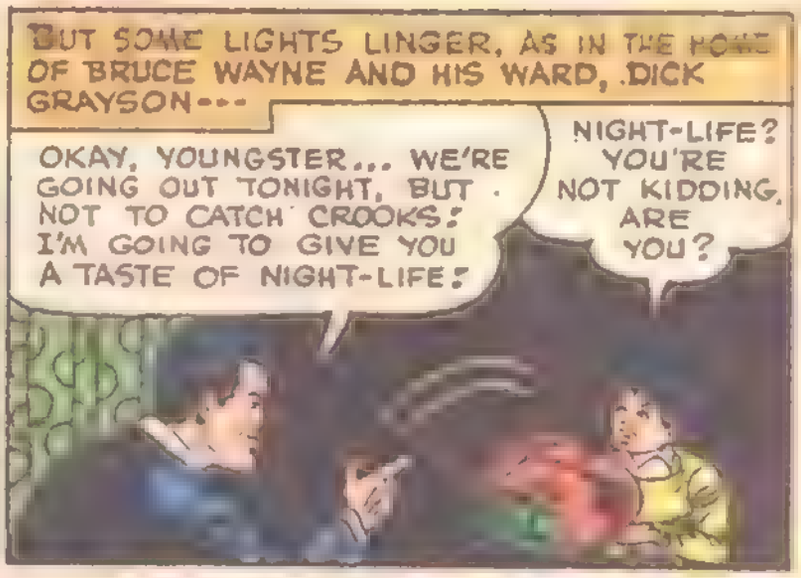
(*Welch*-ing on your girls, hey? —*JS*)

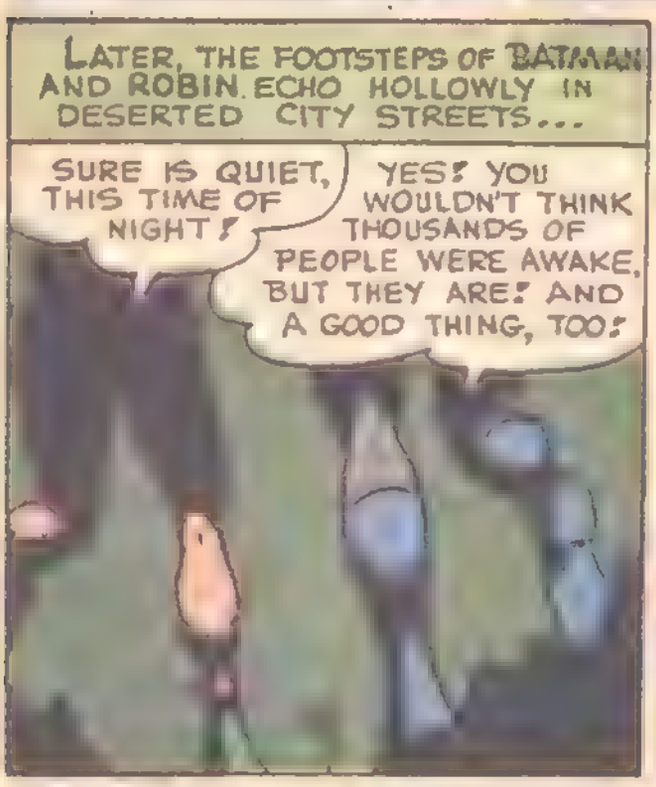
* * * * *

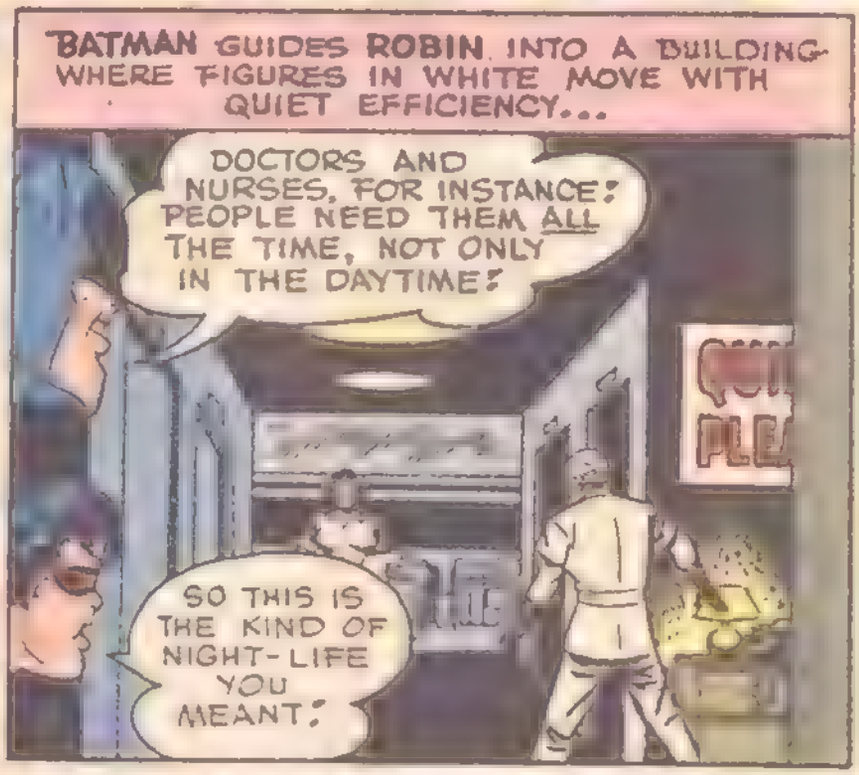
Address all communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

DOWN MEMORY LANE with
BATMAN & ROBIN
A MEMORABLE TALE CULLED FROM THE VOLUMINOUS FILES OF THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE--AS IT ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN BATMAN #30, AUG.-SEPT., 1945!
EVER REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AT WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP? YOU'D BE SURPRISED! AND IT IS TO THAT VAST ARMY OF NIGHT-WORKERS THAT THIS STORY IS DEDICATED BY THOSE VERY SPECIAL NIGHT-WORKERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN! TO THE NIGHT WATCHMAN, HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES, SUBWAY-TRACK INSPECTORS, POWER PLANT SUPERVISORS, CABBIES, FACTORY TOILERS, AND ALL THE OTHERS, TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION, WHO WORK... "WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS!"

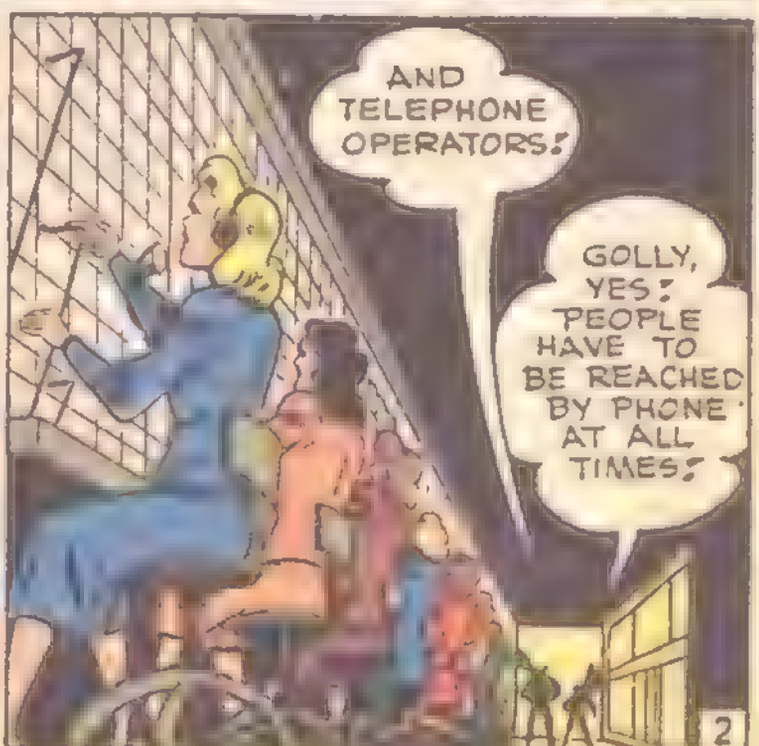

NIGHT FALLS OVER GOTHAM CITY. THE HOURS PASS. ONE BY ONE THE LIGHTS WINK OUT! THE CITY SLEEPS!

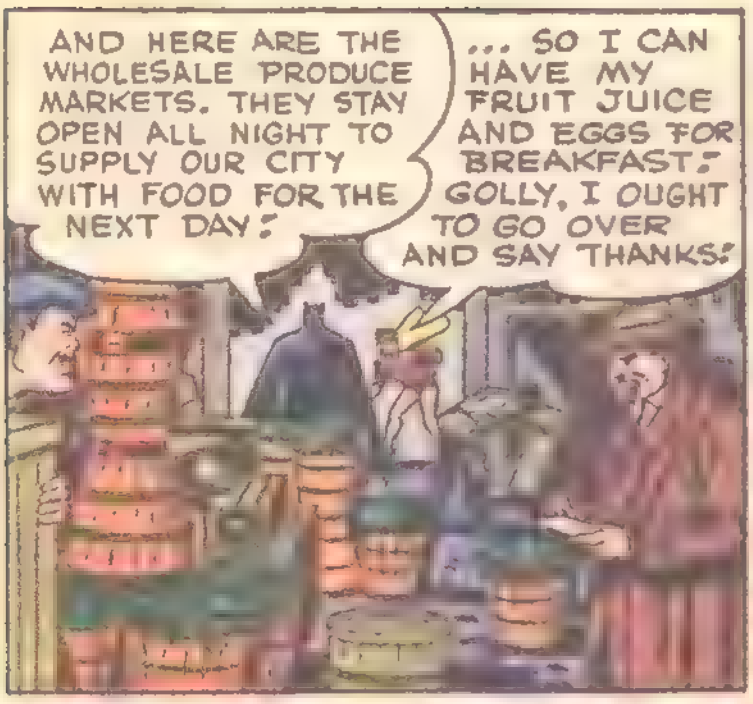

BUT SOME LIGHTS LINGER, AS IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON---
OKAY, YOUNGSTER... WE'RE GOING OUT TONIGHT, BUT NOT TO CATCH CROOKS! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF NIGHT-LIFE!
NIGHT-LIFE? YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, ARE YOU?

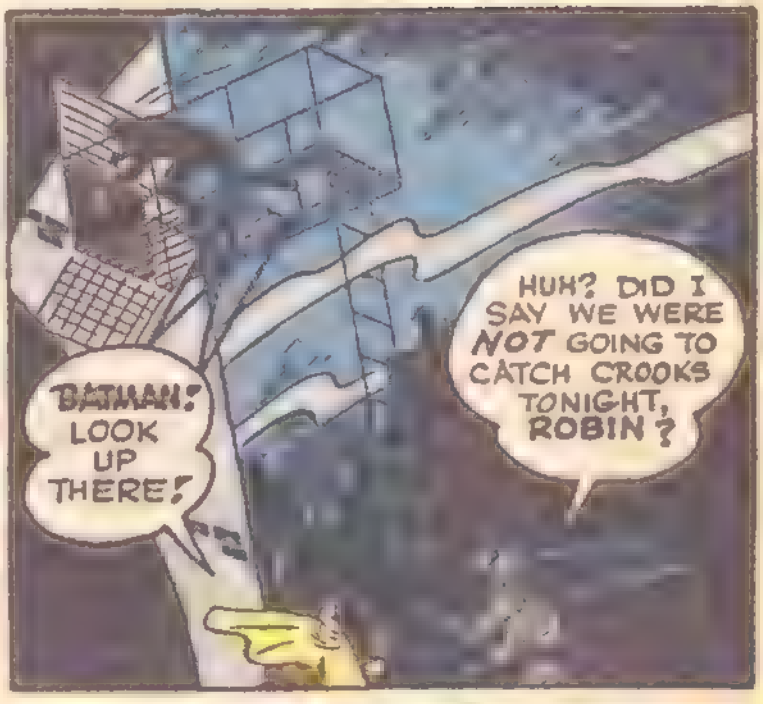

LATER, THE FOOTSTEPS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN ECHO HOLLOWLY IN DESERTED CITY STREETS...
SURE IS QUIET, THIS TIME OF NIGHT!
YES! YOU WOULDN'T THINK THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE AWAKE, BUT THEY ARE! AND A GOOD THING, TOO!


BATMAN GUIDES ROBIN INTO A BUILDING WHERE FIGURES IN WHITE MOVE WITH QUIET EFFICIENCY...
DOCTORS AND NURSES, FOR INSTANCE! PEOPLE NEED THEM ALL THE TIME, NOT ONLY IN THE DAYTIME!
SO THIS IS THE KIND OF NIGHT-LIFE YOU MEANT!

AND DOCTORS AND NURSES AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO WORK WHILE WE SLEEP!
NO, POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN DO, TOO!

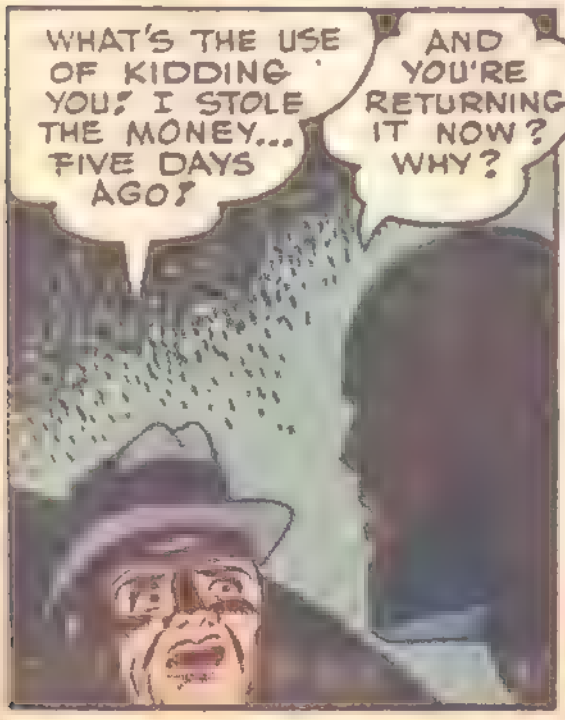

AND TELEPHONE OPERATORS!
GOLLY, YES! PEOPLE HAVE TO BE REACHED BY PHONE AT ALL TIMES!
2


AND HERE ARE THE WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS. THEY STAY OPEN ALL NIGHT TO SUPPLY OUR CITY WITH FOOD FOR THE NEXT DAY!
... SO I CAN HAVE MY FRUIT JUICE AND EGGS FOR BREAKFAST! GOLLY, I OUGHT TO GO OVER AND SAY THANKS!


BATMAN! LOOK UP THERE!
HUH? DID I SAY WE WERE NOT GOING TO CATCH CROOKS TONIGHT, ROBIN?

BUT THIS CROOK ISN'T TAKING ANYTHING OUT OF THE SAFE...
NO... HE'S PUTTING SOMETHING IN IT!

BATMAN!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, MISTER?

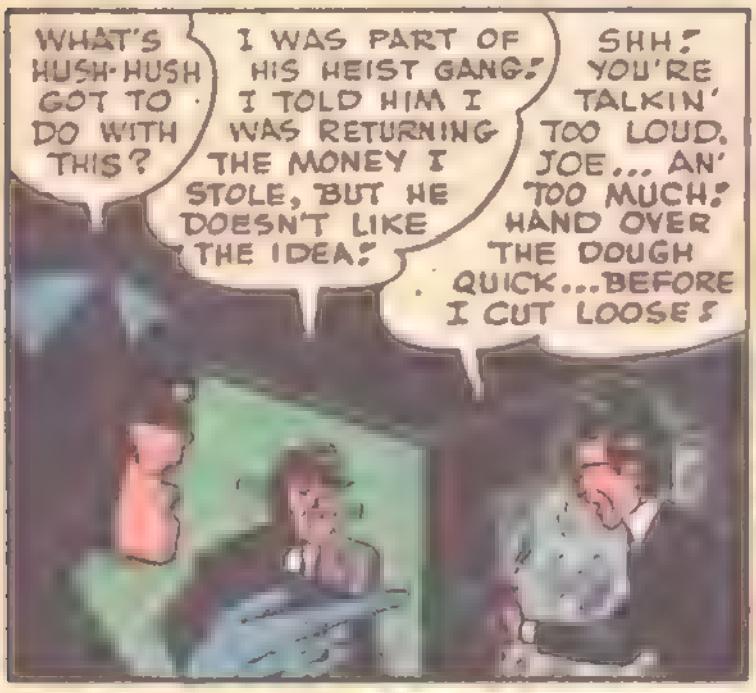

WHAT'S THE USE OF KIDDING YOU! I STOLE THE MONEY... FIVE DAYS AGO!
AND YOU'RE RETURNING IT NOW? WHY?

OLDEST REASON IN THE WORLD! A GIRL! MET HER A FEW DAYS AGO... WE BOTH FELL IN LOVE... PROMISED TO MARRY ME IF I'D REFORM AND RETURN WHAT I'D STOLEN...

BUT I HAD TO RETURN THE MONEY SECRETLY, SO I WOULDN'T BE ARRESTED! NOW YOU'VE GOT ME... WHAT'S THE USE?

WHAT A LAUGH!
CHEER UP! I THINK YOU DESERVE A CHANCE, SO I'LL HELP YOU RETURN THAT MONEY!
NOT TONIGHT YOU WON'T!

HUSH-HUSH BODIN!
SHH! QUIET! WHATCHA MAKIN' SO MUCH NOISE FER? SHH! JUST HAND OVER THE DOUGH!


WHAT'S HUSH-HUSH GOT TO DO WITH THIS?
I WAS PART OF HIS HEIST GANG! I TOLD HIM I WAS RETURNING THE MONEY I STOLE, BUT HE DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA!
SHH! YOU'RE TALKIN' TOO LOUD, JOE... AN' TOO MUCH! HAND OVER THE DOUGH QUICK...BEFORE I CUT LOOSE!

YOU CUT LOOSE AND MY FRIEND BESIDE YOU WILL DROP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS!
ARE YOU TRYIN' TO WORK THAT OLD STALL ON ME? I'M LAFFIN'... QUIETLIKE, OF COURSE!

HUSH-HUSH! HE AIN'T KIDDIN! LOOK!
HUH..?

I'LL BLAST DAT GUY RIGHT NOW... HEY! HE BROKE UP!
YA DUMMY! IT WAS ONLY A MIRROR!
WHY, HUSH-HUSH, YOU'RE RAISING YOUR VOICE!
BANG!

HEY! OOOF!
YAH! RUBBER LEGS!
YOU CAN'T DO DIS TO ME! YOU'RE ONLY A KID!
CAN I HELP IT IF I RUN AWAY WITH MYSELF?
BATMAN! LOOK OUT! HUSH-HUSH HAS A GUN!
THIS'LL HUSH YA UP FER GOOD!
JOE!
BLAM!
GET GOIN' BEFORE THE BATMAN STARTS SWINGIN' AT US AGAIN! MAKE IT QUICK AND QUIET!
BATMAN! SHALL I GO AFTER THEM?
NO... TOO MANY FOR YOU! RIGHT NOW OUR JOB IS TO GET JOE TO A HOSPITAL!
THERE IT IS! GOLLY, IT'S A GOOD THING HOSPITALS STAY OPEN AT NIGHT!
YOU'RE LEARNING ABOUT NIGHT LIFE AT FIRST HAND!

MINUTES LATER... AFTER AN EMERGENCY OPERATION...
THE MAN WILL RECOVER, BATMAN, BUT I MUST KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM FOR THE HOSPITAL RECORDS! HOW DID HE GET SHOT?
"—GOT TO COVER UP FOR JOE—"
ROBIN AND I WERE BATTLING SOME THUGS! HE TRIED TO HELP US AND STOPPED A BULLET!
STILL LATER...
RADIO AND EVERYTHING! ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME!
YEAH... I'M OKAY... BUT THE MONEY! WILL YOU DELIVER IT?... AND WILL YOU TELL MY GIRL I'M OKAY! SHE WORKS AT THE GOTHAM HALL! SHE'S A BALLET DANCER...
I'LL TELL HER TOMORROW! NO USE WORRYING HER TONIGHT! AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MONEY! NOW YOU LISTEN TO THE MUSIC AND RELAX!
AFTERWARDS..THE MOON AGAIN LOOKS DOWN ON THE LENGTHENING SHADOWS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE SECOND PLACE ON JOE'S LIST!
OKAY, SANTA CLAUS! START GIVING OUT THE PRESENTS, BUT I HOPE WE DON'T RUN INTO ANYBODY!
OH, THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE COME! I'M JOE'S GIRL... ANN! HE JUST CALLED ME FROM THE HOSPITAL... SAID YOU'D PASS HERE! I MUST SPEAK TO YOU!
OOPS!
BUT NOT HERE! TOO DANGEROUS! WE'LL GO TO THE THEATRE WHERE I DANCE! IT'S USUALLY DESERTED AT THIS HOUR!
OKAY, ANN! LEAD THE WAY!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER... BACK-STAGE THROUGH THE PROP DEPARTMENT OF THE WORLD-FAMED GOTHAM HALL THEATRE...
DID SHE SAY DESERTED?
OH, THE SCRUB WOMAN! THAT'S ANOTHER PART OF YOUR NIGHT LIFE! ALL OVER THE CITY THEY GET BUILDINGS READY FOR THE NEXT MORNING!

BUT AS THE GIRL TURNS TO FACE THEM, BATMAN NOTICES SOMETHING ABOUT HER FEET...
REMEMBER JOE SAID HIS GIRL WAS A BALLET DANCER? A TRAINED BALLET DANCER ALWAYS WALKS WITH HER TOES POINTING OUTWARD BECAUSE IT STRENGTHENS THE LEGS AND BECAUSE BALLET DANCING REQUIRES HER TO WALK LIKE THAT! LOOK AT THAT GIRL'S FEET! SHE WALKS SLIGHTLY PIGEON-TOED!
GOLLY, THEN WE'RE WALKING INTO A TRAP!
YOU MEAN WALKED!
DON'T LET 'EM GET AWAY! THEY GOT A FORTUNE IN THAT SATCHEL!
HUSH-HUSH! WELL... ALL THESE FANCY ARRANGEMENTS JUST TO GET US?
NOTHIN' AIN'T TOO FANCY SO LONG AS IT CATCHES YOU, BATMAN! GET 'EM, BOYS... AN' PLEASE, NO NOISE!
BATMAN, THEY'RE GOING TO GET US!
FIGHT THEM OFF, ROBIN! JOE'S COUNTING ON US!
WOW! LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR WHO'S ZOO!
NO TIME FOR PUNS, ROBIN! ACROSS THAT ELEVATOR PIT! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THIS MONEY!
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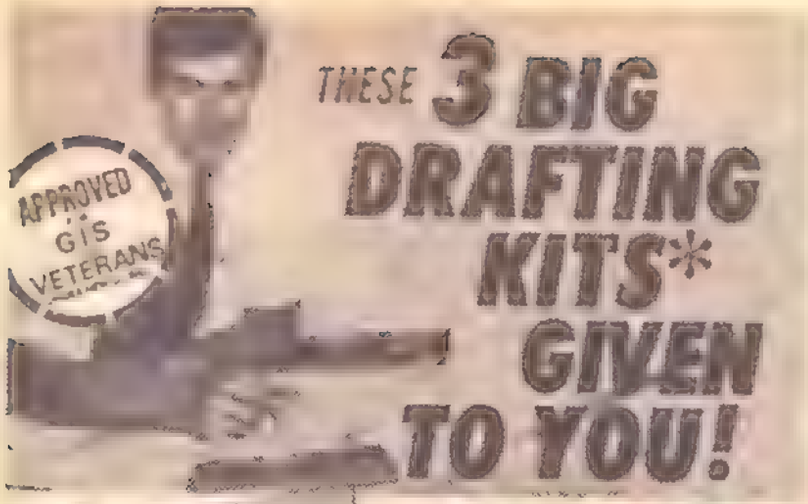

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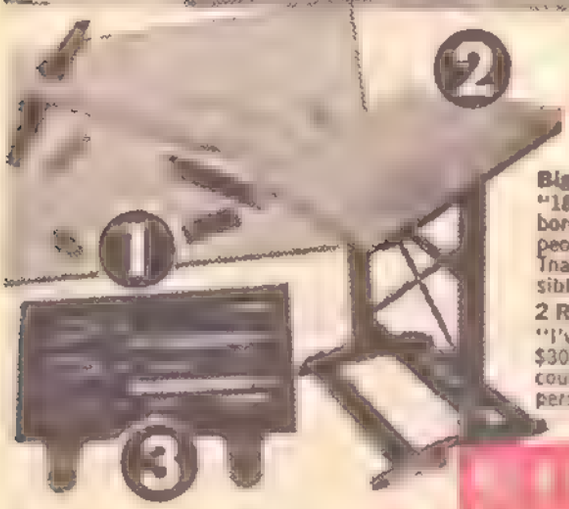

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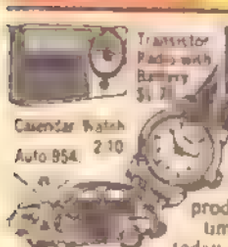

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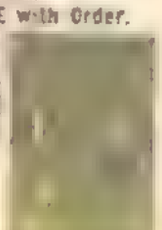

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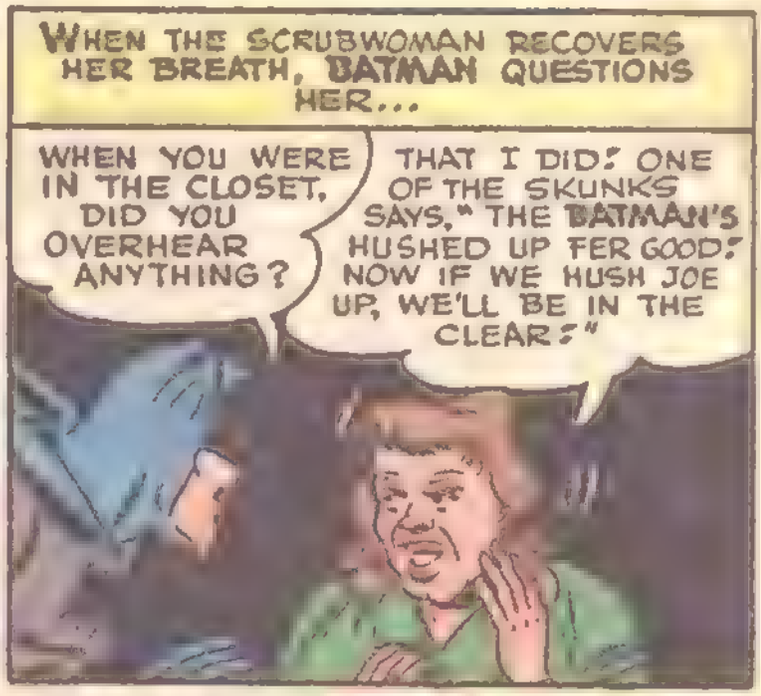
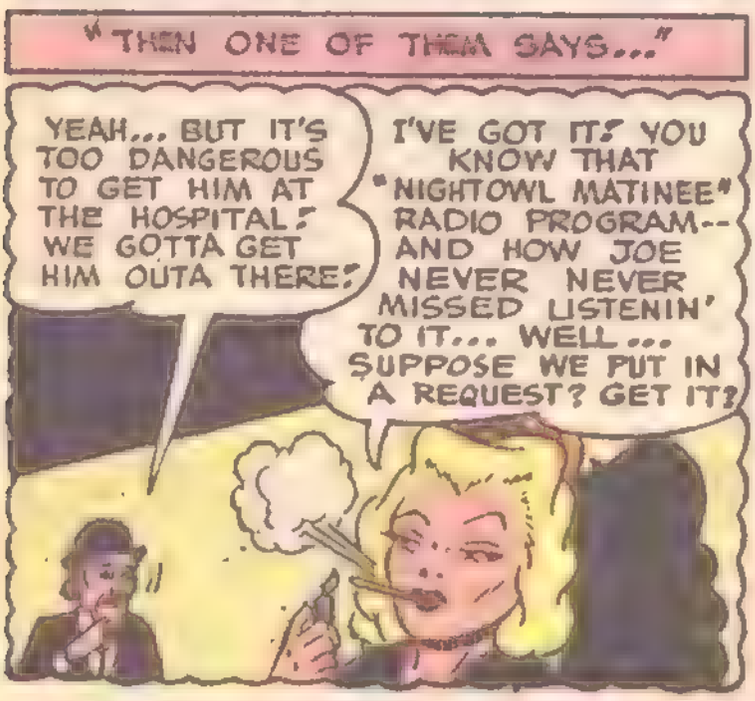
THE TWO TEAR INTO THE BANDITS! THEY'VE GOT A FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS AND THEY KNOW IT!
THEN—
BATMAN, I—I SLIPPED—
ROBIN! LOOK OU... UGH!
SH! QUIET!
SOMETIME AFTERWARD...
OOH! THAT NOISE IN MY HEAD!
IT ISN'T FROM THAT SOCK! IT'S THE ELEVATOR— AND IT'S COMING DOWN ON US!
BEST SPOT I EVER SAW FOR A SHORT-CIRCUIT! BLESS THE WORK-MAN WHO DROPPED THIS!
BATMAN! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING QUICK OR WE'RE GONERS!
WOW! TALK ABOUT MIRACLES! A RUBBER-HANDLED SCREW DRIVER!
LATER...
WE'VE LET JOE DOWN! HUSH-HUSH TOOK THE BAG OF MONEY! OH... DON'T TELL ME THAT'S MY HEAD THUMPING AGAIN!
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THAT CLOSET DOOR!
IT'S STOPPED! YOU DID IT!

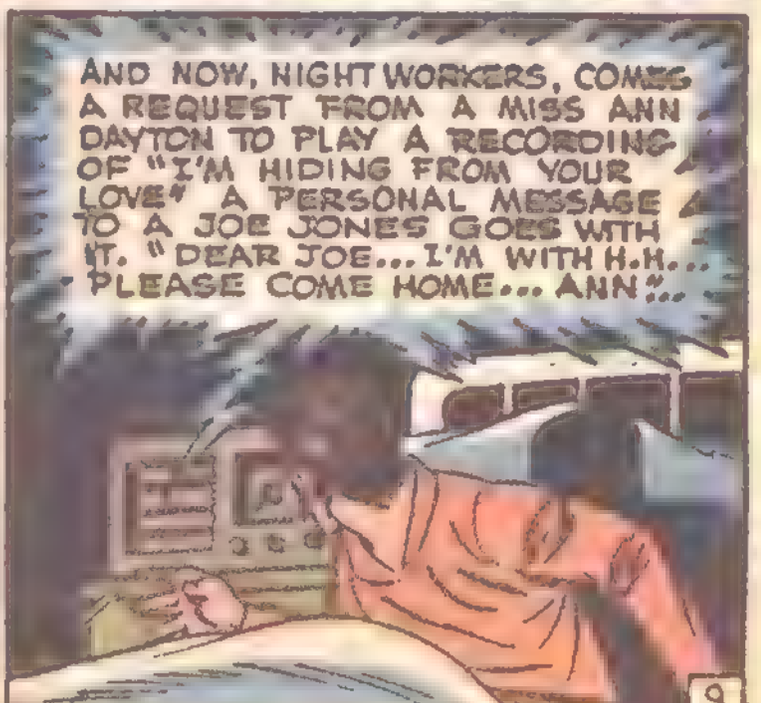
MM-MMP!
THE REAL SCRUBWOMAN! THEY MUST HAVE GRABBED HER WHEN SHE CAME IN TO WORK!

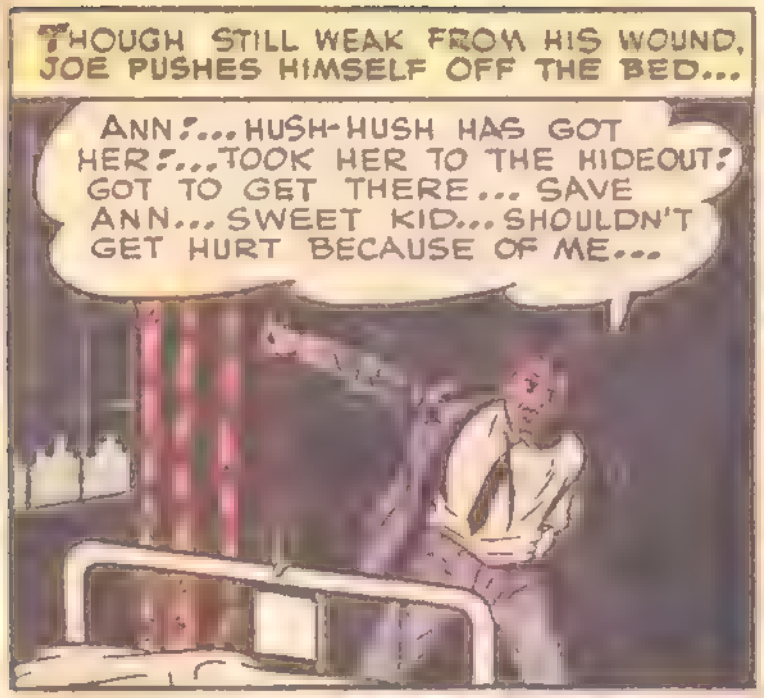

WHEN THE SCRUBWOMAN RECOVERS HER BREATH, BATMAN QUESTIONS HER...
WHEN YOU WERE IN THE CLOSET, DID YOU OVERHEAR ANYTHING?
THAT I DID! ONE OF THE SKUNKS SAYS," THE BATMAN'S HUSHED UP FER GOOD! NOW IF WE HUSH JOE UP, WE'LL BE IN THE CLEAR!"

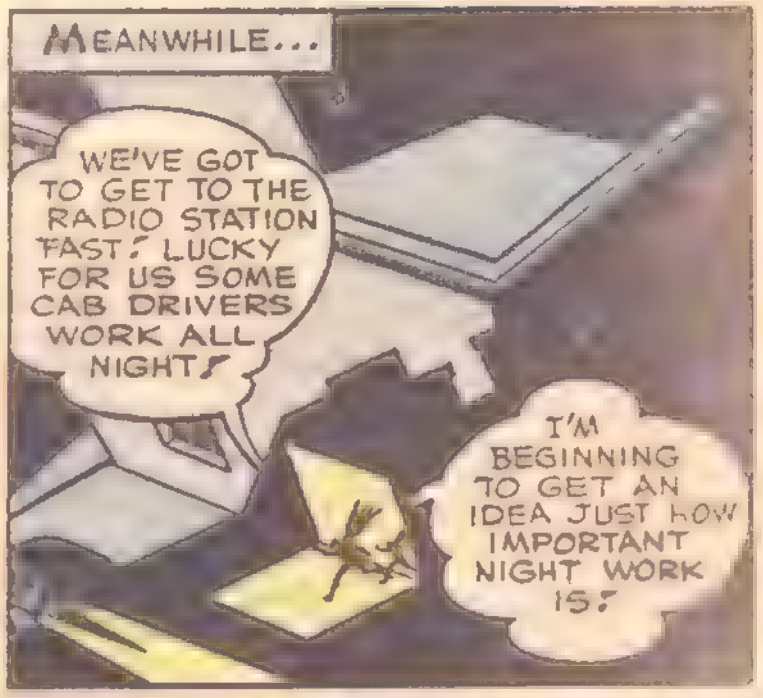

"THEN ONE OF THEM SAYS..."
YEAH... BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GET HIM AT THE HOSPITAL! WE GOTTA GET HIM OUTA THERE!
I'VE GOT IT! YOU KNOW THAT "NIGHTOWL MATINEE" RADIO PROGRAM-- AND HOW JOE NEVER NEVER MISSED LISTENIN' TO IT... WELL... SUPPOSE WE PUT IN A REQUEST? GET IT?

THEN THEY ALL LAUGHED AND LEFT! THE BEASTS! THEY... OHH! A FIFTY DOLLAR BILL!
THANK HEAVEN FOR THE SCRUBWOMEN WHO WORK AT NIGHT!

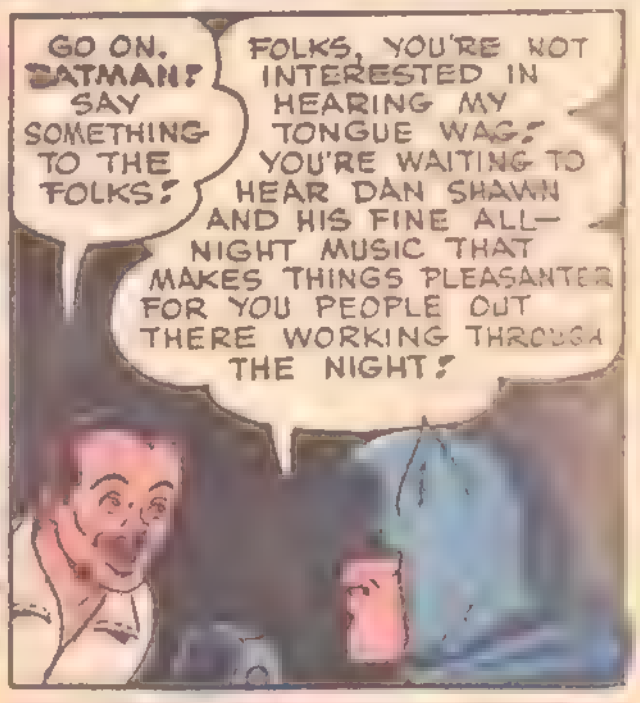
MEANTIME... BUT A SHORT WHILE BEFORE... AS JOE RELAXED, LISTENING TO HIS FAVORITE RADIO PROGRAM...
...PEOPLE WILL SAY WE'RE IN LOVE...

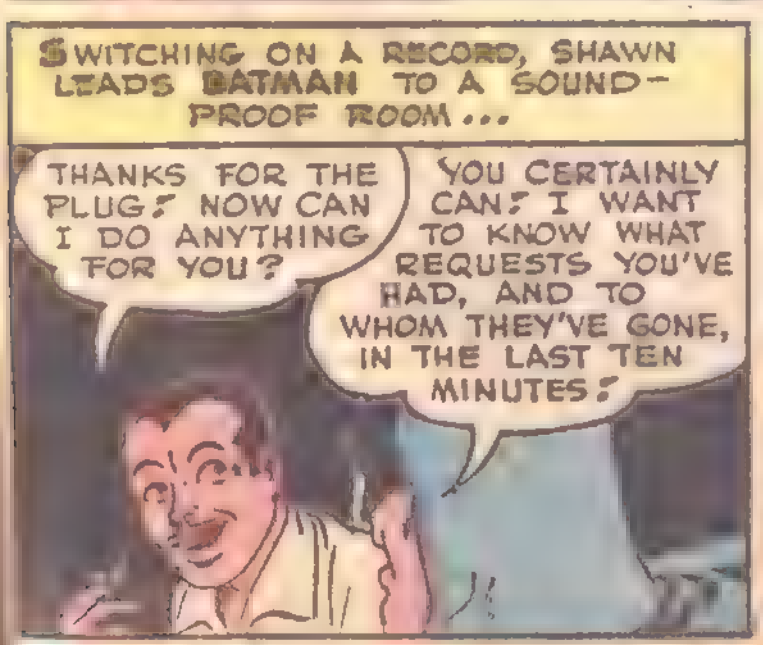

AND NOW, NIGHT WORKERS, COMES A REQUEST FROM A MISS ANN DAYTON TO PLAY A RECORDING OF "I'M HIDING FROM YOUR LOVE" A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO A JOE JONES GOES WITH IT. "DEAR JOE... I'M WITH H.H... PLEASE COME HOME... ANN"...

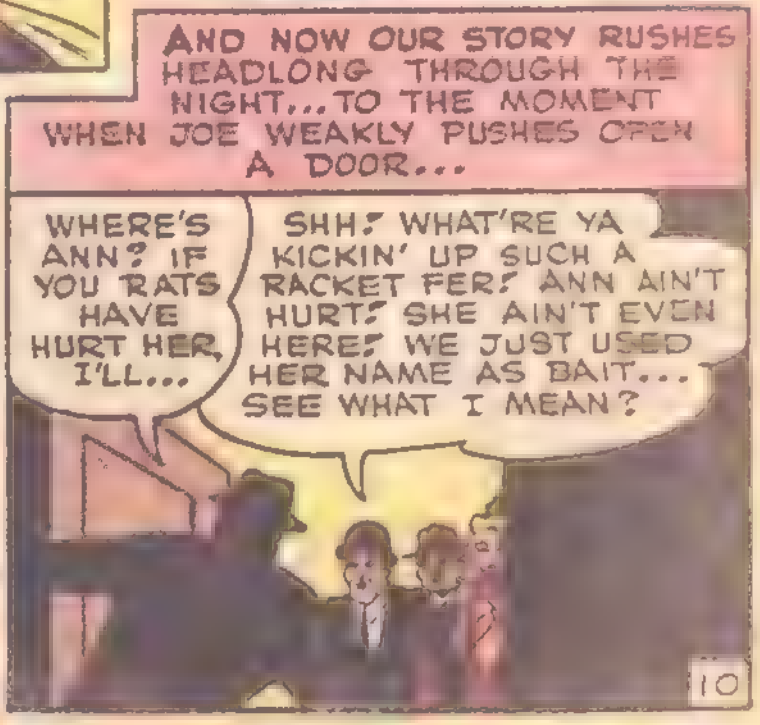

THOUGH STILL WEAK FROM HIS WOUND, JOE PUSHES HIMSELF OFF THE BED...
ANN!...HUSH-HUSH HAS GOT HER!...TOOK HER TO THE HIDEOUT! GOT TO GET THERE... SAVE ANN... SWEET KID... SHOULDN'T GET HURT BECAUSE OF ME...


MEANWHILE...
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE RADIO STATION FAST! LUCKY FOR US SOME CAB DRIVERS WORK ALL NIGHT!
I'M BEGINNING TO GET AN IDEA JUST HOW IMPORTANT NIGHT WORK IS!

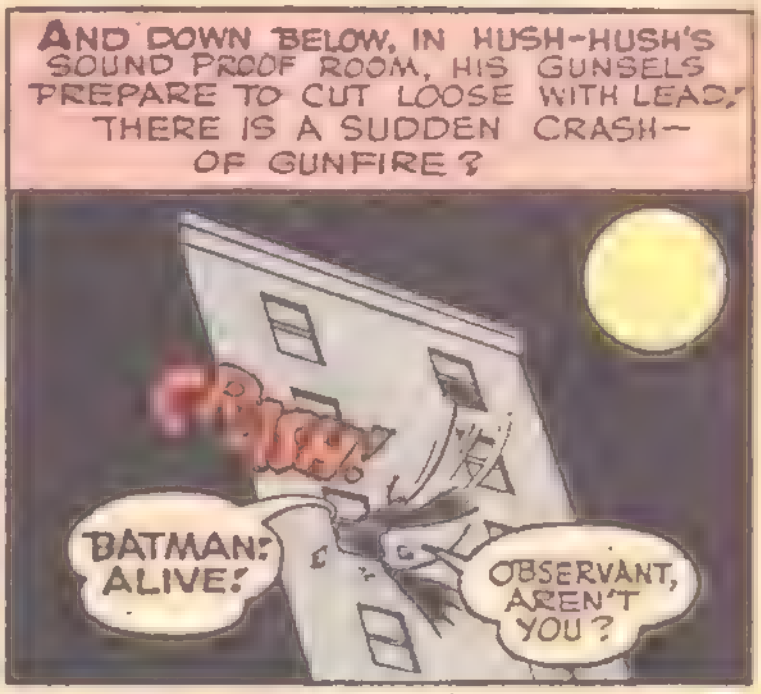
MINUTES LATER... THE TWO ENTER THE STUDIO OF THE "NIGHT OWL'S MATINEE" RADIO PROGRAM.
AND NOW COMES A REQUEST FROM THE SWING SHIFT WORKERS AT THE SHIPYARD FOR... HOLD IT, FOLKS! GUESS WHO JUST WALKED IN! BATMAN AND ROBIN!


GO ON, BATMAN! SAY SOMETHING TO THE FOLKS!
FOLKS, YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING MY TONGUE WAG! YOU'RE WAITING TO HEAR DAN SHAWN AND HIS FINE ALL-NIGHT MUSIC THAT MAKES THINGS PLEASANTER FOR YOU PEOPLE OUT THERE WORKING THROUGH THE NIGHT!

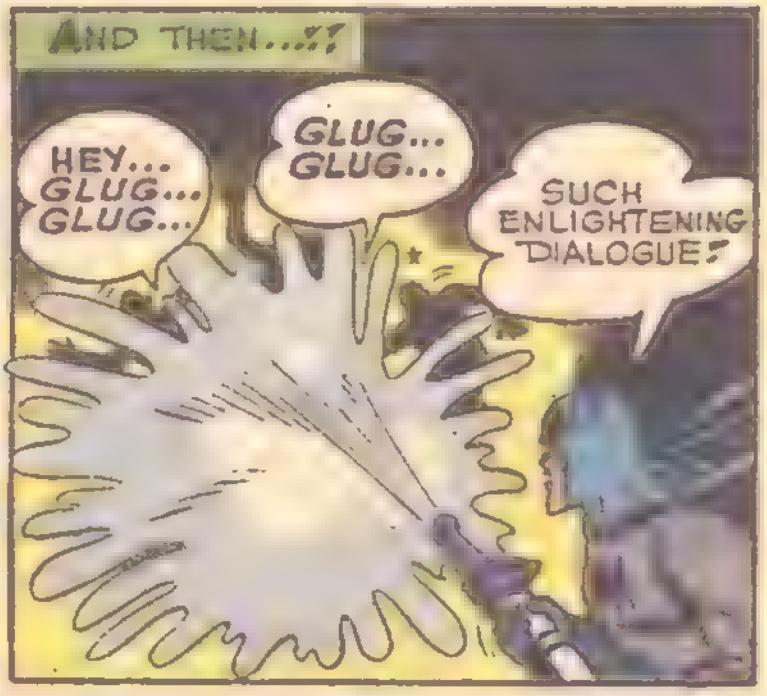

SWITCHING ON A RECORD, SHAWN LEADS BATMAN TO A SOUND-PROOF ROOM...
THANKS FOR THE PLUG! NOW CAN I DO ANYTHING FOR YOU?
YOU CERTAINLY CAN! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT REQUESTS YOU'VE HAD, AND TO WHOM THEY'VE GONE, IN THE LAST TEN MINUTES!


AND NOW OUR STORY RUSHES HEADLONG THROUGH THE NIGHT...TO THE MOMENT WHEN JOE WEAKLY PUSHES OPEN A DOOR...
WHERE'S ANN? IF YOU RATS HAVE HURT HER, I'LL...
SHH! WHAT'RE YA KICKIN' UP SUCH A RACKET FER! ANN AIN'T HURT! SHE AIN'T EVEN HERE! WE JUST USED HER NAME AS BAIT... SEE WHAT I MEAN?

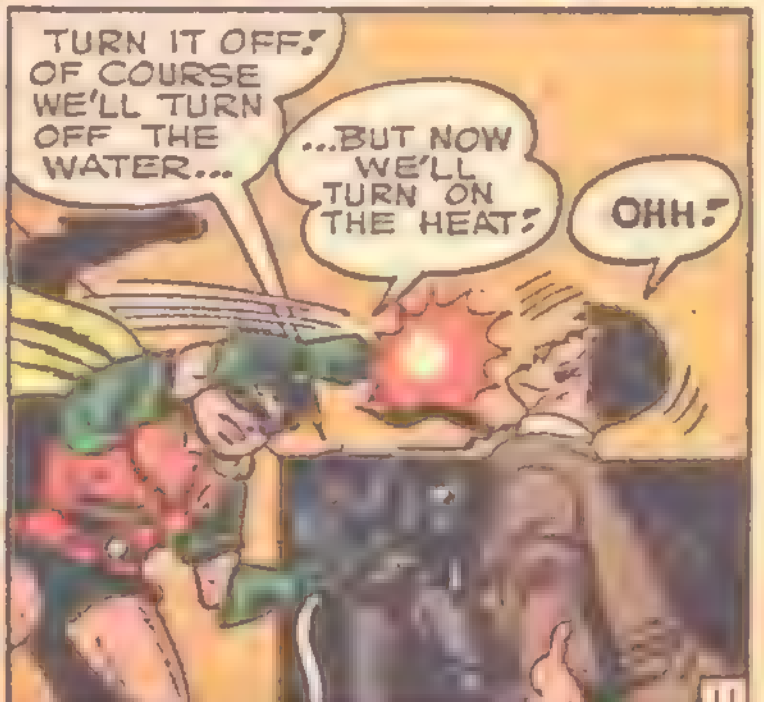
THREE FLOORS ABOVE...
WHY DON'T WE JUST CRASH IN ON HUSH-HUSH'S HIDEOUT?
THIS CALLS FOR STRATEGY...


AND DOWN BELOW, IN HUSH-HUSH'S SOUND PROOF ROOM, HIS GUNSELS PREPARE TO CUT LOOSE WITH LEAD; THERE IS A SUDDEN CRASH— OF GUNFIRE?
CRASH!
BATMAN! ALIVE!
OBSERVANT, AREN'T YOU?

SOMEBODY BLAST THAT GUY!


AND THEN...!?
HEY... GLUG... GLUG...
GLUG... GLUG...
SUCH ENLIGHTENING DIALOGUE!

WHAT GOES ON? LOOKS LIKE A COMMUNITY BATH!
AND IT ISN'T EVEN SATURDAY NIGHT!
GLUG... HALP!.. TURN IT OFF!.. GLUG!..


TURN IT OFF! OF COURSE WE'LL TURN OFF THE WATER...
...BUT NOW WE'LL TURN ON THE HEAT!
OHH!

AND AFTER A SHORT, BUT VERY SWEET, BATTLE...
I'VE GOT THE MONEY! NOW I CAN RETURN IT AND CALL MY GIRL, ANN! SHE MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT...
SHH-HH! QUIET! HUSH— HUSH IS SLEEPING!

AND SO... SOMETIME LATER ...WHILE DARKENED WINDOWS SEEM LIKE COUNTLESS SLEEPING EYES, BATMAN AND ROBIN PAD HOMEWARD.
GOLLY, THAT WORKOUT MADE ME WORK UP AN APPETITE! I'M HUNGRY!
HUNGRY? I'LL FIX THAT!

MR. MILKMAN, ROBIN THANKS YOU... I THANK YOU... AND I'M SURE THE CITY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE TO MANKIND!
GLUG... GLUG... MM-MM!
AW, CUT IT OUT! I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO AND I DO IT! HOW'S THE MILK? GOOD, HUH?
MILK

LATER... HOME, AND WARM, COMFORTABLE BEDS...
WELL, DICK, YOU'VE MET A PART OF OUR GREAT ARMY OF NIGHT WORKERS WHO WATCH OVER US WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS! GREAT PEOPLE, AREN'T THEY?
AND HOW! GOLLY, THEY'RE SORT OF LIKE GUARDIAN ANGELS! MAKES ME WISH WE COULD DO MORE!

DO MORE, DICK? AREN'T YOU FORGETTING TWO WHO ALSO WORK AT NIGHT... THE PAIR WHOSE UNCEASING VIGIL KEEPS NOCTURNAL CRIME AT BAY!
... BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE EYES OF THE NIGHT!
THE END

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